



A Short History
of the
Pali Studies
in the
University of Calcutta
(1880-1986)

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PREFACE

This Monograph attempts for the first time at presenting an outline of the history of Pali studies from the Under-Graduate stages to the Post-Graduate level in the University of Calcutta for the period covering a century and a few years more afterwards. The major portion of the work was published in the form of an article in the Journal of the Department of Pali, Vol I (1982-83). Considering, however, the importance of this subject I felt tempted to utilize the considerable number of off-prints and bring them out as an independent publication. And to increase its worth I have added an Appendix which contains some more relevant topics, besides a succinct account of the activities of the Post-Graduate Department of Pali for the period, January 1984 to July 1985. But I regret to note that the Appendix Portion could not be printed at one stretch of time, but was printed at intervals according to the availability of the materials required for this purpose.

It is with very great pleasure that I acknowledge the encouragement and aid which I received in the progress of this work from my former students and colleagues, Prof. Dipak Kumar Barua, Dr. Kanai Lal Hazra and Dr. Asha Das of the Deptt. of Pali. My sincere thanks are also due to my friends and well-wishers Dr. Subhash Chandra Banerjee, Secretary, U. C. A. C. and Dr. Heramba Nath Chatterji, Professor, Sanskrit College and University Lecturer in Pali and Sanskrit who evinced a keen interest in connection with the writing of this book. I am also very greatly indebted to Ven. Dharmadhar Mahasthavir, formerly Lecturer, Calcutta University, and the learned Advocate Shri Bhupendra Nath Mutsuddi, who have provided me with some valuable data regarding this subject. My best thanks are due to my old class mate Prof. Devaprasad Guha, who has very kindly checked the proofs and removed many obscurities and errors.

I also take this opportunity to thank my former pupil and colleague, Dr. Binayendra Nath Chaudhuri, Head of the Department of Pali, Sanskrit College, for his suggestions of various sorts in this regard. My affectionate thanks are also due to my pupils, Dr. Sukomal Chaudhuri and Dr. Sadhan Chandra Sarkar of the Sanskrit College for their assistance in connection with this work. I also wish to place on record my appreciation of the help I have received in



preparation of this work from Shri Amitabha Mitra, formerly Lecturer-in-charge, Language Deptt. (C. U.), Sanjit Kumar De, Superintendent, External Section, Ajit Kumar De, Cash Supervisor, Nikhil Bandhu Mutsuddi, Subhash Chandra Mutsuddi, Atish Mutsuddi, Sujatasebak Barua, and Phani Bhushan Das, Headmaster, Prafulla-Pratap Vidyayatan. My sincere thanks are also due to Shri Dilip Kumar Mukherjee, Publisher, P. G. Departmental Journals, who facilitated the publication of my lengthy article in the first issue of the Pali Journal and also encouraged me in bringing out this monograph in the present form. My thanks are likewise due to Shri Bijoy Kumar Pradhan, Senior Library Assistant, University Central Library, who has provided me with various sorts of facilities to use Library books for the preparation of this monograph. My most hearty thanks are also due to my former pupils Prof. Manotosh Karmakar of the Ramthakur College, Dr. Manikuntala Halder and Chittaranjan Patra, M. A., B. Lib. Sc., now Lecturer, Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission, who have collected some data useful for this work. I sincerely thank my young friend Shri Chandan Kumar Banerjee, M. A., who has assisted me in various ways in bringing out this small work in the present form; without his diligent aid the publication of the book would have been well-nigh impossible. Lastly, I should also thank my friend Dr. Prabodh Narayan Singh, Reader in Hindi and Lecturer in Pali, for his assistance and keen interest in the completion of the work.

Janmastami,
August 27, 1986

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To
My revered Teacher
Anukul Chandra Banerjee

*(Retd.) Professor and Head of the Department of Pali
and Ex-Dean, Faculty of Arts, Calcutta University.
Sometime President, Board of Secondary Education,
West Bengal ; and erstwhile Director,
Sikkim Research Institute of
Tibetology and Buddhist
Studies, Gangtok.*



**A Short History
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(1880-1986)**



A Short History of the Pali Studies in the University of Calcutta (1880-1983)

Dr. Sukumar Sengupta,

(Retired) Reader in Pali and Lecturer in Sanskrit,
University Colleges of Arts and Commerce.

The University of Calcutta occupies the unique position in the history of education as being the first University in India to have introduced Pali as an independent subject at the Post-graduate level for which teaching arrangements were made on a small scale by the University authorities as early as 1907. The Department of Pali studies, which originated from this humble beginning, was set up in an organised form in 1917. "The objective of the University in undertaking this venture was to open out to its advanced students an opportunity for a comprehensive study of that distinct and widespread civilization which is represented by Buddhism. The fact should not be lost sight of that from the 5th century B. C. to the 12th century A. D., Buddhism moulded thoughts, ideals and literatures of the entire Far East. The history of Buddhism is also a story of cultural contacts between different groups of people in South, South-East and East Asia. The Department of Pali studies was intended to provide opportunities for the study of the cultural contacts between all these different regions". (C. U. Annual Report, 1954-55).

The Pali Department could rightly claim to have produced numerous successful students in the past, who distinguished themselves not only in the field of education but also in other spheres of life. But the Department's chief claim to fame centred round the names of two such distinguished alumni (subsequently associated with it as Professors) as those of Dr. Benimadhab Barua, who was a



great Indologist of world-wide reputation and Dr. Nalinaksha Dutt, who was a recognised authority on Buddhist studies, particularly in relation to Mahayana literature and philosophy. The third luminary was Dr Bimala Churn Law, another ex-student of the Department, who occupied a front rank among Indian scholars for his contributions to diverse subjects like Buddhism, Jainism, Ancient Indian History and Geography. Among the teachers (both Indian and Foreign) who served the Department in the past were also such celebrities, as Satischandra Vidyabhusan, Rakhaldas Banerji, D. R. Bhandarkar, Rev. R. Siddhartha, Bhagaban Chandra Mahasthavir, Rev. K. Deva-rakshita, R. Kimura, J. Masuda, Suniti Kumar Chatterjee, Hem Chandra Ray Choudhuri, Prabodh Chandra Bagchi, Nanigopal Majumdar, Radha Govinda Basak, Niranjana Prasad Chakravarti, Satkari Mookerjee, Stella Kramrisch, Benoy Chandra Sen, Jitendranath Banerjee and the like.

..

Introduction of Pali at the Under-Graduate Stage

The University of Calcutta can also claim to have been the first University in India to afford facilities of Pali studies to the students offering their option for the study of Pali as one of their subjects in schools and colleges. The students availed themselves of this opportunity which came into force with effect from the academic session 1880-1881. There had been for long a demand for Pali studies at the school and college stages which became increasingly manifest among students of Rangoon, and the demand was first met by the opening of classes in Pali in the Govt. Rangoon College during the session 1880-81. The University responded to this demand by introducing Pali for the first time at the under-graduate level and conducting examination for the F. A. Course in November 1880. The movement in this direction was accelerated by the Director of Public Instruction, British Burmah, who requested the University authorities to consider the fair demand of the local people (Rangoon) and take necessary steps in this affair. The following extracts from the University Minutes for the year 1880-81 may be quoted here in this context :

Item No. 59 (Minutes 1880-81, P49—28th Oct. 1880). "Read a letter from the Director of Public Instructions, British Burmah, requesting that the necessary arrangements may be made for



examining candidates for the F. A. Examination at Rangoon in the ensuing November, and that one of the candidates may be allowed to take up Pali as a second language.

Ordered—

1) That Rangoon be added to the list of centres for the F. A. Examination.

2) That Pali be added to the list of second languages for the Entrance, F. A. and B. A. Examinations.

3) That Dr. Forchhammer be requested to set papers for the ensuing F. A. Examination in the Dhammapada and Buddhavanso, the text books recommended for the examination by the Director of Public Instruction, British Burmah—Minutes for 1879-80, page 42)

Item No. 111 (Minutes 1880-81, P65—22nd Jan. 1881).

“Read a letter from the Director of Public Instruction, British Burmah, recommending the following text-books in Pali for the University Examinations, in place of those formerly sanctioned :

For the Entrance Examination :—

- 1) Pali Miscellany, by Prof. Trenckner (28 pages of the text);
- 2) Selections from the Jātakas (Fausboll's edition) : the Apannaka Jātaka (36 pages of the text);

For the F. A. Examination :

- 1) Jātakas (Fausboll's edition); Vaggo I-IV, inclusive, pages 95-234).
- 2) Dhammapada (Fausboll's edition): the First Bhāṇavāram, pages 1-35.

For the B. A. Examination :

- i) Kaccāyana (Senart's edition);
- ii) Abhidhammatthasaṅgaha

and enquiring whether the Syndicate could arrange for the printing of the last mentioned work in Calcutta,—the copy to be furnished by Professor Forchhammer.



Resolved—

That the above mentioned list of text books in Pali be accepted, and that the Director of Public Instruction, British Burmah, be invited to furnish detailed proposals with regard to the arrangements to be made for printing the Abhidhammathasangaha in Calcutta." Thus the above University records reveal that Burma, the land of Theravāda (Pali) Buddhism, played the dominant role in the introduction of Pali for the first time in the University of Calcutta with the result that the subject gained popularity not only among the students of Rangoon but also of Calcutta and Chittagong, where in course of time a number of schools and colleges were affiliated in Pali in all the under-graduate courses of study. Steps were also taken from time to time by the University authorities for introducing changes in the Syllabi for the respective examinations to meet fresh requirements in the study of Pali. It appears from the University Calendar of 1886 that the University authorities made necessary arrangements for holding examination in Pali Honours for which questions were set for the first time in 1885. But we do not find the name of any graduate with Honours in Pali, recorded in the Honours list of the successful candidates in the calendar before 1908. It is noteworthy that the first graduate with Honours in Pali was Mr Mahima Ranjan Barua who appeared from the Presidency College in the supplementary B. A. Examination held in 1908.

Early History of the Post-Graduate Study in Pali

Pali was recognised by the University as an independent subject for Post-graduate study during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and it was included in the course of study prescribed for the M. A. Examination with effect from 1889. A detailed syllabus in the subject was also laid down in the University Regulations, but no provision was made for a systematic teaching of the subject in any of the affiliated first-grade colleges upto the M. A. standard. No student came forward (during the years 1889 to 1900) to offer himself as a candidate for the M. A. Examination in Pali. Consequently there was no problem so long of the examination affairs relating to the M. A. Course in Pali. But it was in 1901 that Mr. Satish Chandra Acharyya, Professor, Sanskrit College, offered himself as the only candidate for the M. A. Examination in Pali. The University authorities had to face directly the difficulty of finding out suitable examiners for this purpose. It is very significant that this examina-



tion, the first held in the University, had ultimately to be conducted with the assistance of Prof. T. W. Rhys Davids who gladly agreed to act as paper-setter and examiner in all the six papers of the Examination. He was admitted to the M. A. degree and was placed in the first class with high marks in the subject. Mr. Harinath De, whose literary and linguistic attainments attracted the attention of scholars both at home and abroad, was also a candidate in 1906 for the M. A. Examination in Pali. He achieved high distinction in this examination having stood first in the first class. On this second occasion also Prof. Rhys Davids was appointed Examiner in Pali. In course of the next three consecutive years other candidates, who followed the examples of their predecessors, also came out successful at the respective examinations. But it is noteworthy that all the enthusiasts for Pali studies who were admitted to the M. A. degree in Pali during the nine years of the first decade of the present century (1901 and 1906-1909) appeared at the examinations as Private or non-Collegiate candidates.

The importance of Pali studies at the Post-graduate level was fully appreciated by the late Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee who was at the helm of all University affairs as its Vice-Chancellor from 1906 to 1914. Arrangements for Post-graduate teaching in Sanskrit and Pali were first made by the University in 1907 under its own aegis in conformity with Section 3 of the Indian Universities Act, 1904. Accordingly, Mr. Dharmananda Kosambi, a celebrated Maharastriyan scholar in Pali, was appointed the first University Lecturer in Pali during the last quarter of 1907 on a monthly salary of Rs. 100/- (One hundred) only.

The financial provision arranged by the Syndicate for the remuneration of the Pali Lecturer at such a comparatively low salary was obviously inadequate for a distinguished scholar hailing from Maharashtra who had been associated with the University of Calcutta as a Post-Graduate Lecturer in Pali for the first time. During the next session this important matter was discussed seriously in a meeting of the Syndicate held on the 9th October, 1908 with the result that the Syndicate sanctioned a suitable increment of salary (Rs. 250/- per month from the 1st October, 1908) consistent with his status and qualifications. (Minutes of the Syndicate, V, 1908, pp 1930-1931). This was communicated to Prof. Kosambi in due time.



But inspite of the efforts of the University to retain the services of an eminent Pali scholar for Post-graduate teaching, Mr. D. Kosambi tendered his resignation intimating to the University authorities to this effect that "he was unable to continue to act as a University Lecturer in Pali" (C. U. Minutes, 1909, page 44).

The early resignation of Mr. D. Kosambi caused great inconvenience to the University, as there was a dearth of really competent men who could be entrusted with the work of Post-graduate teaching in Pali. Under such circumstances, a Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Mr. Harinath De and Dr. Thibaut, was appointed by the Syndicate to consider and report on the question of future appointment of a University Lecturer in Pali in the place of Professor Kosambi resigned. Ultimately Mahamahopadhyay, Satish Chandra Vidyabhushan, Principal, Sanskrit College, was appointed University Lecturer in Pali (C. U. Minutes 1910, p. 798) with effect from July, 1910 "on an honorarium of Rs. 100/- a month for his lectures extending to at least 3 hours a week". During this formative period extending over seven years (1910-1917) Dr. Vidyabhushan taught almost all the papers required for the M. A. Course in Pali including some of the Group papers according to the necessity of the students, and he carried on this responsible task as Lecturer in the most satisfactory manner in addition to his other heavy duties. It should be mentioned in this connection that during this period the Sanskrit and Pali students of the M. A. classes also received instructions and guidance in Epigraphy under the eminent archaeologist Rakhal Das Banerjee who was associated for sometime at the initial stage with the Post-Graduate studies introduced in the University (C U Calendars 1912-1913).

The Pali students also attended the lectures of Mr. Surendra Nath Majumdar Sastri on Inscriptions and Ancient Indian Geography at the Darbhanga Building during the academic sessions of 1913-1917. It is worthy of note that Sree Lalit Mohan Kar was the first regular candidate who was admitted to the M. A. degree in Pali in 1911 as a University student.

From 1912 onwards, students attending University classes appeared from year to year at the M. A. Examination in Pali and came out successful as University students. Non-collegiate students also appeared from time to time at these examinations and were admitted to the M.A. degree in Pali. This is the nucleus of Post-Graduate



studies in Pali in the University of Calcutta for which some provision, however inadequate, was made in course of three years (1907-1910), and it was due to the persistent effort of the University authorities that the continuity of Pali studies on a Post-Graduate level was maintained throughout a decade (1907-1916) until a full-fledged Department was formed and established under the control of the Council of Post-Graduate Teaching in Arts during the session 1917-1918.

Outline of the History of Pali Studies (1917-1948).

As in respect of other Departments, so in the case of Pali also the year 1917 was a great landmark. In 1917 when Post-Graduate studies were centralised under the control of the Council of Post-Graduate teaching, the Department of Pali was expanded by the appointment of Lecturers and the revision of syllabus prepared in 1906.

During the early part of the academic session 1917-18 the following gentlemen were appointed as Post-Graduate teachers in Pali :—

Mahamahopadhyay Dr. Satischandra Vidyabhushan, M. A., Ph.D.

Mr. D.R. Bhandarkar, M.A.

Babu Surendranath Majumdar, M.A.

Babu Sailendranath Mitra, M.A. (Gold Medalist, 1912)

The honorarium paid to Mahamahopadhyay Dr. Satischandra Vidyabhushan was raised to Rs. 200/- a month with effect from the above academic session and Babu Sailendranath Mitra M.A. was appointed University Lecturer for a term of three years on a remuneration of Rs. 200/- a month. It is further known from the Proceedings of the Board of Higher Studies in Pali, dated the 21st December 1917, that Dr. Benimadhab Barua, M.A. (Gold Medalist) D. Litt. (London) was appointed University Lecturer for a term of five years on a remuneration of Rs. 300-50-500 a month (to deal principally with Pali and Group (iii) of the special course in Ancient Indian History and Culture.) Thus the teaching staff was strengthened by the appointment of Dr. Benimadhab Barua who was the first Asian to be



admitted to the Degree of Doctor of Literature in the University of London. The Board of Higher Studies in Pali also proceeded to consider the course of studies for the M.A. Examination in Pali and recommended the substitution of the following syllabus (with the sanction of the Government) for that contained in the previous regulations. To encourage the study of Mahāyāna Buddhism, there was instituted a special group comprising some of the principal works in Buddhist Sanskrit Language. The M.A. Course in Pali was divided into four groups. The first four papers of all the groups were identical and covered the following subjects :—

- Paper I Selected portions of the Sutta-piṭaka
- Paper II Selected portions of the Vinaya piṭaka
- Paper III Pali and Prakrit Grammar and Philology
- Paper IV History of Pali Literature and Buddhism

As regards the other four remaining papers, candidates were allowed the choice of one out of the following four groups :—

Group A—(Literary)

- Paper V Selected portions of the Jātakas
- Paper VI Selected portions of Pali Literature in general
- Paper VII Inscriptions
- Paper VIII Essay and translation of unseen Pali passages into English

Group B—(Pali Philosophy)

- Paper V Selected portions of the Abhidhamma-piṭaka
- Paper VI Selected portions of the non-canonical works
- Paper VII Selected portions of the canonical and non-canonical works with commentaries
- Paper VIII Essay and translation

Group C—(Epigraphy and History)

- Paper V a) Selected portions of the Pali annals and chronicles
b) Unseen passages for translation into English
- Paper VI Inscriptions of the Maurya period
- Paper VII Cave inscriptions and inscriptions of the Gupta period
- Paper VIII Ancient Geography of India and Essay



Group D—Mahayana Literature and Philosophy)

- Paper V Selected texts (prose and poetry) of Mahayana Literature
 Paper VI Selected texts of Madhyamika and Yogachara Philosophy
 Paper VII Selected texts of Buddhist works on Nyaya
 Paper VIII (a) Sanskrit Grammar (b) Essay

Thus the division of the Post-Graduate Course in Pali into four groups was sufficiently justified by the impetus given thereby to the systematic study of Buddhism, Abhidhamma and Mahayana in particular. Arrangements were also made to give the students the full benefit of Tutorial Classes under expert Tutors and there was established a Seminar in which students and teachers used to meet once a week to discuss subjects of general interest with special reference to Buddhism and allied Culture. The arrangements for higher teaching in Pali which had already been made were expanded from year to year and in course of seven or eight years the staff was strengthened by the appointment of a few more lecturers and requisition of services of some teachers from some of the allied Departments. From the Proceedings of the Council of P. G. Teaching, it is known that the undermentioned gentlemen were appointed University teachers in the Department of Pali for a term of five years on the grade and salary stated against their names with effect from the 1st June 1920 :

Name	Grade	Salary on 1st June 1920
Dr. Benimadhab Barua	300-50-500	400
Prof. D. R. Bhandarkar (Deptt. of History)	—	50
Babu Nalinaksha Datta (already appointed in 1918)	200-25-300	225
Bhikshu Kukulnape Devarakshita		100
Rajaguru Bhagabanchandra Mahasthavir		150
Babu Sailendranath Mitra	200-25-300	225
Samana Punnananda		100
Samana Rambukwelle Siddhartha		100
Babu Gokuldas De (appointed in 1918)	100-25-200	125



The remuneration of MM. Dr. Satischandra Vidyabhushan M. A., Ph. D. was also fixed at Rs. 200/- a month subject to the sanction of the authorities of the Sanskrit College.

The teaching of some special subjects in Pali was entrusted to the following gentlemen whose services were requisitioned from the Departments of History and Sanskrit :—

1. Babu Surendranath Majumdar, M. A., P. R. S. (Dept. of History);
2. Babu Radhagobinda Basak, M. A., (Dept. of History);
3. Babu Niranjanprasad Chakraborty M. A. (Dept. of Sanskrit);
4. Mr. R. Kimura (Dept. of History) and
5. Mr. J. Masuda (Dept. of History)

It may be further noted in this connection that on the recommendation of a joint meeting of the Boards of Higher Studies in Sanskrit and Pali, dated May 1920, Babu Amareswar Thakur, M.A., in Sanskrit (Group A, Group B and Group D) and in Pali (Group A.) 1918 (Gold Medalist) was appointed University Lecturer in the Departments of Sanskrit and Pali for a term of five years in the grade Rs. 200-25-300 and his initial salary was fixed at Rs. 250 per month. Similarly in a joint meeting of the Board of Higher Studies in Sanskrit, Pali and History, dated the 10th September 1920, Dr. Ramesh Chandra Majumdar M. A., Ph. D. was appointed to lecture on the Geography of Ancient India to Post-Graduate students in the Departments of Sanskrit, Pali and Ancient Indian History and Culture, and an extra remuneration of Rs. 100 a month was sanctioned for him with effect from 1st September 1920. The services of Mr. Nanigopal Majumdar, M. A., University Lecturer in History were also requisitioned to take the Inscription classes in the Pali Department for the session 1924-25 in the absence of Dr. N. P. Chakrabagi who was in England on leave. Besides the above Mr. Ramaprasad Chowdhury and Mr. Hiren-dralal Sengupta, who were appointed assistants to the Department of Pali, were entrusted with the teaching work in the Department during the session 1922-23. Thus the staff consisting of distinguished University scholars and Buddhist Bhikkhus of great erudition, represented a happy and fortunate combination of experts of the western or scientific and the eastern or traditional methods.



As regards the Board of Examiners in Pali for the M. A. Examination it appears from the list of Examiners (Internal and External) recorded in the University Calendars (1919-1925) that external examiners, recruited from different parts of India and abroad, included distinguished scholars and authors like Dr T. W. Rhys Davids, Ph. D., Mons C. Duroiselle, Dr. F. W. Thomas, M. A., Ph. D., Mrs. C. A. F. Rhys Davids, Rev. Dharmavamsa Bhikshu, Prof. K. V. Depal, M. A., Prof. P. V. Bapat, Mr. Shwe Zan Aung, etc.

Subsequently Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee, M. A., D. Lit. (Lond), whose honorary services were requisitioned from the Department of Comparative Philology, joined the Department to teach the students Pali Philology for the session 1925-26, and Mr. Hirendralal Sengupta, M. A., Class I (Gold Medalist) was appointed a temporary University Lecturer in Pali

The Department sustained a severe loss owing to the sudden and untimely death of MM Dr. Satischandra Vidyabhusan, University Lecturer in Pali and Sanskrit, on the 26th March 1920. Dr. Vidyabhusan had been to all intents and purposes the Lecturer-in-Charge of the Department since the very inception of the Post-Graduate studies in Pali in the University of Calcutta. After his demise the charge of the Department devolved on Dr. B. M. Barua who smoothly discharged his official responsibilities with the assistance and co operation of his colleagues. It may be mentioned in this connection that for a number of years there was no Professor in the Department which was manned by Lecturers alone. But in 1925, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the post of a Professor was created and the first incumbent of the Chair was Dr. B. M. Barua. We may quote the relevant paragraph from the Proceedings (1925) of the Executive Committee dated the 19th November, 1925 :—

“The Executive Committee recommends that Dr. Benimadhab Barua be appointed in the special grade Rs. 500-25-700 with effect from 1st June 1925, and that he be placed in charge of the Department with the designation of University Professor as a personal distinction.”

Dr. Barua served in that capacity with great distinction and ability till his death. During the tenure of his service



as Professor (1925-1948), the Department of Pali was enriched and increasingly expanded by the acquisition of higher research degrees on the part of some of the members of the teaching staff and requisition of the honorary services of some distinguished teachers of such sister Departments as those of Ancient Indian History, Sanskrit and Comparative Philology. In 1927 Dr. Nalinaksha Dutt, who had been granted study leave for a period of two years proceeded to Europe for intensive study and research in Mahayana Literature and Philosophy under the guidance of Prof. La Vallee Poussin. On the completion of his thesis entitled "Aspects of Mahayana Buddhism and its relation to Hinayana", he was admitted in due course to the Degree of Doctor of Literature in the University of London, a rare distinction with which few Indians had been previously honoured by the London University. The staff of the small Pali Department undoubtedly enjoyed the proud privilege of being associated closely with two Doctors of Literature (Lond.) which indirectly shed lustre upon the fair name of the Calcutta University.

In the course of next few years the existing staff, which was considered to be inadequate and required to be expanded, was further strengthened by the addition of the following teachers whose services were requisitioned from the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture :— (1) Dr. Hemchandra Roy Chaudhuri (1931), Dr. Probodh Chandra Bagchi (1931-32) and Dr. Benoy Chandra Sen (1932-33). Dr. Satkari Mookerjee of the Sanskrit Department also joined the Pali Department during the session 1931-32 to lecture on some Buddhist Sanskrit Texts. Dr. Radha Govinda Basak, who had been associated with the Pali Department at the initial stage of Post Graduate teaching, agreed to serve as Honorary lecturer in Epigraphy in the Departments of Sanskrit and Pali during 1935-1941. After he had left the University, Dr. Sadananda Bhaduri of the Presidency College was appointed in his place as Honorary Lecturer in the Department of Pali in 1944.

About this time there were slight changes in the (whole time) staff of the Department. Sri Sailendra Nath Mitra, a veteran scholar in Pali, was appointed by the University authorities to officiate as Secretary to the Councils of Post-Graduate teaching in Arts and Science with effect from the 13th July 1935 on an allowance of Rs. 200/- p. m. in addition to his salary as University Lecturer. After the confirmation of his post as Secretary, Sri Dwijendralal Barua,



M.A., a Research Fellow in the Department, was appointed as whole time (Assistant) Lecturer in the Department of Pali in 1937. Sri S. N. Mitra, however, retained his connection with the Department as an Honorary part-time Lecturer. About this time the service of Sri Birinchi Kumar Barua, M.A. (Pali), Part-time Lecturer in Assamese, University of Calcutta, was also requisitioned for the Department and he took part in the teaching work during the sessions 1937-38 and 1938-39. The teaching of some special papers for the M. A., course in Pali was also entrusted to Sri Nalini Nath Dasgupta, M. A. Research Fellow in the Department of Pali (appointed in 1937) and Sri Anukul Chandra Banerjee, Research Assistant for Tibetan and Chinese studies (appointed in 1935). The two continued to assist in the teaching work from the beginning of the session 1937-38.

Prof. Barua then turned his attention to the revision of the M.A. Pali syllabus. The members of the Board of Studies considered the necessity of revising and enlarging the existing syllabus, and accordingly a comprehensive syllabus was drawn up in 1936 for conducting M. A. studies in 5 groups (of 3 papers each) with the introduction of a new group for the study in Buddhist Art and Iconography. The first five papers (instead of four papers as required by the existing regulations) were compulsory for each group. Arrangements were also made for teaching some of the special papers concerned with the new group (Group E—Art and Iconography) and consequently the honorary services of Dr. Stella Kramrisch, Ph. D, and Mr. Jitendranath Banerjee, M. A., were requisitioned for the Pali students from the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture with effect from the commencement of the session 1938-39.

The staff, including the teachers recruited from other Departments, was constituted as follows during the sessions 1938-39 and 1939-1940.

- Prof. Benimadhab Barua, M.A., D. Litt. (Lond.)
- Dr. Nalinaksha Dutt, M.A., Ph. D, D. Litt. (Lond.)
- Mr. Gokuldas De, M. A.
- Mr. Dwijendralal Barua, M. A.
- Mr. Sailendranath Mitra, M. A.
- Dr. Prabodhchandra Bagchi, M. A., D. Litt. (Paris)
- Mr. Birinchi Kumar Barua, M. A.



Dr. Satkari Mookherjee, M. A., Ph. D.
Dr. Amareswar Thakur, M. A., Ph. D.
Dr. Stella Kramrisch, Ph. D.
Prof. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee, M. A., D. Lit. (Lond.)
Prof. Hemchandra Roy Chaudhury, M. A. Ph. D.
Mr. Jitendranath Banerjee, M. A.
Dr. Binay Chandra Sen, M. A., Ph. D. (Lond.)
Dr. Radhagobinda Basak, M. A., Ph. D.

It should be also mentioned in this connection that Dr. Sukumar Sen, M. A., Ph. D., University Lecturer in Comparative Philology and the Research Fellow, Sri Manmohan Ghosh, M. A. belonging to the Philology Department, also used to take classes in the Department for the benefit of the Pali students during the absence of Prof. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee owing to his occasional visits to Europe and other countries outside India.

It may be stated here incidentally that other allied Departments of Post-Graduate Studies required assistance of the Pali Department for teaching work, and consequently the honorary services of some distinguished teachers of the Pali Department were also requisitioned from time to time by the respective Heads of the Departments in this regard. Dr. B. M. Barua had served the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture well-nigh for thirty years (1919-1948) as honorary Lecturer on Buddhism and Jainism. His services were also requisitioned during the session 1927-28 by the Head of the Department of Sanskrit where he served as Lecturer on Epigraphy till his death in March 1948.

Sri Sailendra Nath Mitra M. A., who had been teaching the basic language Pali in the Department of Indian Vernacular since 1919, had to discontinue his services in the Department due to his appointment as Secretary (P. G. Councils), and in his place Sri Gokul Das De, M. A., gladly accepted the responsibility of teaching Pali assigned to him in the Department of Indian Vernaculars which he maintained till his retirement in 1955. After his retirement Mr. Dwijendralal Barua, M. A., was entrusted with the duty of teaching Pali in the Department of Modern Indian Languages.

Dr. Nalinaksha Dutt was also appointed a Lecturer in the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture during the session



1919-20 and was associated with Dr. Barua in delivering lectures on Buddhism. The syllabus revised and given effect to the M. A Examination 1939 was as follows :—

Revised Syllabus for the Year 1939

Common Paper—

Paper I

Select portions of Buddhist Sutras (Pali and Sanskrit) with or without commentaries.

Paper II

Select portions of the Vinaya and Ecclesiastical Chronicles

Paper III

Select portions of the Buddhist Philosophical works (Pali and Sanskrit)

Paper IV

Language and Literature (Grammar, Philology and History of Literature)

Paper V

History and Geography with special reference to original texts

Group A—Literature

Paper VI

Select Jatakas and Avadanas and select texts of folk-literature

Paper VII

Select poetical pieces and extra-canonical texts (Prose and Poetry)

Paper VIII

Comparative study of allied Indian Literature and Essay

Group B Philosophy and Religion

Paper VI

Special philosophical texts from Pali Literature

Paper VII

Special philosophical texts from Buddhist Sanskrit literature and other Sanskrit texts dealing with Buddhist Philosophy



Paper VIII

Comparative Studies in Indian Philosophy and essay

Group C—Epigraphy and History

Paper VI

Special Buddhistic Historical texts, archaeological reports and records of Buddhist pilgrims.

Paper VII

Select Prakrit Inscriptions

Paper VIII

Select Sanskrit Inscriptions and Essay.

Group D—Mahayana Literature and Philosophy

Paper VI

Select Sanskrit Sutras and Poetical Works.

Paper VII

Special Philosophical and Tantra Texts.

Paper VIII

Buddhism outside India and Essay

Group E—Art and Iconography

Paper VI

Select Buddhist and other Indian Texts dealing with Architecture, Sculpture and Painting

Paper VII

Select Buddhist Monuments, Reliefs, Images and Frescoes

Paper VIII

Buddhist Art in its origin and development in and outside India and Essay.

After a few years the following Honorary part-time Lecturers were appointed by the Selection Committee to carry on the teaching work of this Department with effect from July 1944 :—

1. Dr. Sadananda Bhaduri, M. A., Ph. D. (Presidency College)
2. Sri Ramaprosad Chaudhuri, M. A., P. R. S. and 3. Sri Anukul Chandra Banerjee, M. A. B. L. (Part-time Assistant Lecturer).



Sri Shyamsundar Banerjee M. A. of the Vidyasagar College was appointed in 1946 to take classes in the Department in an honorary capacity. Sri Nalininath Das Gupta, who at first joined the University as a Research Fellow under the supervision of Professor B. M. Barua but gradually became a Reader in the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture, served as honorary Lecturer in the Pali Department till his death in 1966.

Professor B. M. Barua breathed his last on the 23rd March 1948. The Department suffered irreparable loss at the sad and sudden demise of Dr. Benimadhab Barua who had left a void which it would be difficult to fill in the years to come. His original investigations of far reaching importance in all and sundry branches of Indology and Pali studies placed him in the front rank of the Indologists of international fame. The University still cherishes the memory of the deceased Professor, who was one of the most distinguished scholars that Bengal had ever produced.

On his death Dr. Nalinaksha Dutt, M. A., Ph. D., D. Lit. (Lond.) succeeded to the Headship; but the post of Professorship was not then filled up.

1948-1976

Dr. Nalinaksha Dutt, who had been the acting Head of the Department since the death of Prof. Barua in March 1948 was appointed University Professor of Pali with effect from the 1st. of December 1949. During the period of his service as Professor for about 9 years (1949-58), the staff had undergone several changes. In the vacancy of a teacher in the Department caused by the expiry of Prof. B. M. Barua, Dr. Anukul Chandra Banerjee M. A., LL. B., Ph. D., was appointed University Lecturer in Pali in 1948. Sri Dinesh Chandra Bhattacharyya of the Presidency College was appointed as an honorary part-time lecturer in 1950. Sri Prabhash Chandra Majumdar M. A. and Sri Sukumar Sengupta M. A. were appointed Research Fellows for a term of three years under the supervision of Dr. N. Dutt, during the session 1948-49. They not only carried on their research work but also assisted in the teaching work of the Department. Three years later they were also appointed Honorary part-time Lecturers in the Department. Dr. Herambanath Chatterjee, M. A., D. Phil., P.R.S. joined the Department of Pali in 1957 as an Honorary Part-time Lecturer. The Department



also received the Honorary services of Dr. Kalyan Kumar Ganguli M.A., D. Phil., P.R.S. (requisitioned from the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture) from the commencement of the session 1955-56 and he was entrusted with the teaching of some special papers relating to Art and Archaeology. After Prof. S. K. Chatterji had left the University, Dr. Sukumar Sen, M. A., Ph. D., Professor of Indian Linguistics and Phonetics, gladly agreed to teach Philology in the Pali classes and he continued his honorary services in the Department till he retired in 1964. Dr. Anukul Chandra Banerjee was awarded the Ghosh Travelling Fellowship for the year 1955-56 and was deputed to Burma to make an intensive study of Abhidhamma. On his return from Burma he was promoted to the post of a Reader created for the first time in the Department of Pali in 1957.

Prof. Nalinaksha Dutt also devoted his attention to the revision of the Pali Syllabus for the M. A. Examination. Steps were taken in 1952-53 for introducing certain important changes in the Syllabus to meet fresh requirements in various branches of Buddhist studies with special reference to original sources. The notable feature of the Department of Pali during this period was that this was the only Department in the University of Calcutta where provisions were made for the first time to teach at the Post Graduate level important topics relating to the expansion of Indian Culture in North Asia, South-east Asia and Ceylon with special reference to Buddhism incorporated in Group D under the nomenclature 'Asian Buddhism'. The revised syllabus, which came into effect from the examination of 1955, is as follows :—

M. A. Pali Syllabus

- Paper I — Select Pali Canonical Texts (Sutta and Vinaya)
- Paper II—Select Pali Texts on Abhidhamma and Buddhist Sanskrit Texts on Philosophy
- Paper III—Select later Pali and Buddhist Sanskrit Texts and History of Buddhist Literature
- Paper IV—Select portions of original texts on Pali, Sanskrit and Prakrit Grammar and Historical and Comparative Grammar of Pali
- Paper V—Political History, Geography and Religious History



Group A

Early Buddhist Literature and Philosophy

Paper VI—Special Canonical and non-Canonical Texts

Paper VII—Special Texts on Buddhist Philosophy

Paper VIII—Comparative study of Allied Indian Literature and Essay

Group B

Mahāyāna Literature and Philosophy (including Bengal and Orissan Buddhism,

Paper VI—Select Mahāyāna and Tantrayāna Texts

Paper VII—Select Mādhyamika, Yogācāra and Old Bengali texts bearing on Buddhism

Paper VIII—Comparative study of allied Indian religious and philosophical systems—Buddhist, Jaina, Sāṅkhya and Vedānta and Essay

Group C

Epigraphy, Iconography, Art and Archaeology

Paper VI—Select Prakrit and Sanskrit Inscriptions with Palaeography

Paper VII—Buddhist Art and Iconography

Paper VIII—Special Buddhist Historical Records, Archaeological Reports and Ancient Indian Geography.

Group D

Asian Buddhism

Paper VI—Comparative Study of Buddhist Literature in and outside India

Paper VII—Buddhist and allied Culture in Central Asia, China, Japan, Tibet, Indo-China and Indonesia

Paper VIII—Buddhist and Allied Culture in Burma, Siam and Ceylon and Essay

Dr. Nalinaksha Dutt retired from the University service as Professor and Head of the Department in November 1958. On his retirement, Dr. Anukul Chandra Banerjee was appointed to the Chair



and he continued in that capacity till his retirement in December 1975. During the period of his Professorship the numerical strength of the teaching staff and the students expanded to a considerable extent.

There were several changes in the composition of the staff. The vacant post of Reader, due to the promotion of Prof. A.C. Banerjee, was filled up in 1960 by the appointment of Dr. Biswanath Banerji, M.A., D. Phil (Munich), formerly Lecturer of Visvabharati University, who had returned after his studies from Germany. After a short period of about two years Dr. B. N. Banerji joined the Sanskrit College as Professor of Pali and consequently Sri Sukumar Sen Gupta M.A., Sutta-Visārada (formerly Professor of Pali, Maharaja Manindra Chandra College) was appointed temporary whole-time Lecturer in the chain post in July 1962. On the resignation of Dr. B.N. Banerji, Sri Dwijendra Lal Barua, M.A. was appointed to the post of Reader in the Department in 1965. Sri Sukumar Sen Gupta was also appointed as (permanent) Lecturer in the Department in March 1968.

Rev. Dharmadhar Mahasthavir, Tripiṭaka-Visārada, Principal, Nalanda Vidyabhavana, an oriental scholar in Pali, was appointed as an honorary Part-time Lecturer in 1966 to teach Abhidhamma in the post-Graduate classes of the Pali Department. Dr. Asha Das, M.A., Ph. D., was also appointed honorary Part-time Lecturer in the Department in 1971. Dr. Shyamsundar Banerjee, M.A., D. Lit. who had been serving the Department in honorary capacity since 1946 was appointed in 1970 to the newly created post of Part-time Lecturer with remuneration, sanctioned by the Syndicate for the Department of Pali. The honorary services of Dr. Chinmay Datta, Reader in the Department of Comparative Philology, and Dr. Prabodh Narayan Singh, Reader in Hindi, were also requisitioned by Prof. Banerji in 1963 and 1970 respectively to impart instructions in Paper IV of the Pali Syllabus.

The number of students in the Pali classes had always been small in the past. But the numerical strength of the students comprising the two Post-Graduate classes gradually increased from 7 in 1958-59 to 23 in 1975-76.

Prof. Anukul Chandra Banerjee and Dr. Sukumar Sen Gupta were associated with the Department of Sanskrit for imparting instruc-



tions to the students selecting Groups H (Prakrit) and I (Epigraphy and History) respectively for their specialisation. Sri Prabhash Chandra Majumdar also devoted part of his time in imparting instruction to the students of Ancient Indian History and Culture taking Religious History (Group III) as their special course of study for the M.A. Examination. After the retirement of Sri Dwijendralal Barua, Dr. Asha Das, M.A., Ph.D. was entrusted with the teaching of Pali in the Department of Modern Indian Languages. Sri Prabhash Chandra Majumdar M.A. became the Secretary to the University Colleges of Arts and Commerce but was associated with the Department as a Part-time Lecturer. The vacant post of whole-time Lecturer was filled up in 1968 by the appointment of Dr. Dipak Kumar Barua, M.A. Dip. Lib., P.R.S., Ph.D. who had served the Rabindra Bharati University as the officer-in-Charge of the University Library and UNESCO and also as Lecturer in the Departments of Philosophy and Sanskrit.

The Department had tentatively commenced teaching work in all the groups. Dr. Kanailal Hazra, M.A. LL.B., Dip. Lang., Ph.D. (Ceylon) who, on his return from Ceylon, had been continuing his teaching work in the Department as Pool Officer (1963-71) was appointed in 1971 to the additional post of whole-time Lecturer in Pali sanctioned by the Syndicate for the new subject, "Asian Buddhism" (Group D) introduced into the course of study for the M.A. examination in Pali. Sri Dwijendralal Barua, who had served the Department for a pretty long time (for about thirty three years) retired in 1970. On his retirement Sri Prabhash Chandra Majumdar, M.A., Sutta-Visarada, was appointed Reader in his place in 1971. But he could not join the Department in that capacity even after his appointment to the post, owing to the pressure of work and responsibility as Secretary which he had to discharge till his death in 1974. The University and no less the Department of Pali suffered a severe loss at the sad and sudden death in November 1974 of Mr. P. C. Majumdar who had served his Alma Mater in different capacities as Lecturer, Secretary, as a member of Senate and subsequently as Reader and who had dedicated his whole life to the cause of welfare of Pali studies with devotion and ardent love for the subject. The vacant post of whole time teacher due to the death of Mr. Majumdar was filled up temporarily in December 1974 by the appointment of Dr. Asha Das, M.A., Ph.D., who had been an honorary Part-time lecturer in the department. Dr. Hrishikesh Guha M.A., Ph.D. was also appointed Honorary Part-time Lecturer in 1974.



After the retirement of Prof. A. C. Banerjee in December 1975, the Department was placed in the charge of Dr. Sukumar Sen Gupta who continued to serve as Head of the Department till the end of the session 1975-1976. In the meantime Dr Dipak Kumar Barua was appointed Reader in March 1976 in the vacant post caused by the untimely death of Mr. Prabhash Chandra Majumdar in November 1974.

(1976-1983)

Dr. Sukumar Sen Gupta was succeeded by Dr. Dipak Kumar Barua as Head of the Department in July 1976. After the retirement of Dr. A. C. Banerjee the Professorship was held in abeyance until it was filled up by the appointment of Dr. D. K. Barua as University Professor of Pali in March 1978. During the period of his Headship Dr. Barua concentrated his attention to the progress of the Department in various directions. Immediately after he had been placed in the charge of the Department, he hastened to fill up several vacant posts and to this effect Rev. Dharmapal Bhikshu, Dr. Binayendra Nath Chaudhuri and Dr. Sukomal Chaudhury were appointed as Honorary part-time Lecturers in the Department. The post of a Lecturer was regularised and to this effect Dr. Asha Das was appointed whole-time Lecturer in Pali in September 1976. Dr. Anil Chandra Pal, M. A., Ph. D. (Lond) and Sri Prabal Kumar Sen, M. A., whose services were requisitioned by Dr. Barua from the respective Departments of Archaeology and Philosophy, also joined the Pali Department as Post-graduate teachers during the session 1976-1977. During the period of his Professorship, Dr. Sukumar Sen Gupta was also appointed Reader in April 1979 and he retired from the post in March 1980. It was due to his initiative, Dr. Sen Gupta again joined the Department as Guest-Lecturer in October 1980 and continued his services in that capacity till March 1983. Prof. Barua also initiated the proposal to institute Certificate and Diploma courses in Pali Language and Literature which were introduced in the University during the session 1980-81. A new scheme for the compilation of an Encyclopaedia of Buddhism in Bengali was placed by him to the Syndicate for recommendation to the U.G.C. and in response to this demand a lump grant of Rs. 2000/- has been sanctioned by the U.G.C. for the purpose.

Dr. Kanai Lal Hazra was placed in the Charge of the Department (with Dr. Barua on the Chair) in January 1982 in accordance with the



rotation system adopted by the University in recent times. Since then Dr. Hazra has spared no pains to discharge his duties as Head of the Department (during the short period of about two years). There were several changes in the composition of the staff during this period. Dr. K. L. Hazra was appointed Reader in April 1982 in the vacant post caused by the retirement of Dr. Sen Gupta in March 1980 and Dr. Bela Bhattacharyya M.A, Ph.D., was also appointed as Lecturer in Pali in the same month of the year 1982. The Department has been continuing its steady development towards the Teaching and Research activities since January 1982. Dr. Asha Das (a senior Lecturer in the Department) was appointed Reader as per merit promotion scheme in the month of July 1982, while the services of Dr. Mrinal Kanti Ganguly and Dr. Kshanika Saha were requisitioned by Dr. Hazra from the Departments of Sanskrit and Ancient Indian History respectively in order to assist the Department in the teaching work. Dr. Sadhan Chandra Sarkar recently joined the Department as Honorary Guest Lecturer with effect from August 1983 owing to the initiative taken by Dr. K. L. Hazra in this direction.

Steps were also taken by Dr. K. L. Hazra for the implementation of the scheme relating to the compilation of the Encyclopaedia (in Bengali) which had been already sanctioned by the University and the U.G.C. during the Headship of Dr. D. K. Barua. Sm. Sumita Sen Gupta M.A., and Sm. Swapna Raut, M.A. had been engaged in October 1982 for the purpose. They have already prepared some articles for the Encyclopaedia, some of which have been recently published in the form of booklets. Thus the Department has, for the first time, undertaken the work of compilation of an Encyclopaedia of Buddhist learning in Bengali which is progressing satisfactorily with the aid of a few young scholars and some members of the teaching staff. Recently the M. Phil. course has been introduced in the Department and regular classes are being held by the members of the teaching staff.



Research Activities of the Department 1917-1976

Since the inception of the Department the members of the teaching staff had been actively engaged in carrying on their researches on various aspects of Buddhist learning. Epigraphy, art and archaeology with special reference to Buddhism and as a result of their investigations, new windows of knowledge had been opened and new light had been thrown on old subjects already undertaken by some of their contemporaries and also some of their predecessors. It will be evident from the following list of books that valuable contributions were made by the members of the Department to the enrichment of our knowledge in the field of Buddhism and allied culture of ancient India and their works certainly reflect on the credit of the Department. The list is not exhaustive but only illustrative.

The most outstanding contribution of Dr. B.M. Barua to Philosophical studies is represented by his pioneer work entitled 'A History of the Pre-Buddhist Indian Philosophy' (Thesis for D. Litt. degree of the University of London) which was published by the Calcutta University in 1921.

Dr. Barua is the first Indian Scholar who made a fair attempt to trace the History of Indian Philosophy from the Vedic period to the age of Buddha and Mahāvīra on the basis of the data collected from the early Vedic, Pali and Prakrit literature, as also from the Epics and other Sanskrit texts. Besides numerous research papers contributed to different antiquarian journals, he is the author of more than a dozen books on the diverse subjects, some of which may be mentioned here, as follows :- The Ājavikas, Gayā and Buddhagayā (2 Vols.), Barhut (Illustrated monographs in three Volumes), Old Brahmi Inscriptions in the Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves, Asoka and his Inscriptions (Part I and II), Inscriptions of Asoka (Translation and Glossary), Philosophy of progress, etc.

Sri Nalini Nath Das Gupta M. A., who had been appointed Research fellow to work under Prof. Barua in 1937, collected materials for the subject, 'History of Buddhism in Bengal' and to this effect his well-known work in Bengali entitled 'Bāṅglāya Bauddha Dharma' was published in 1948. He also contributed the Chapters



on Buddhism (C. A.D. 1000-1200) to volume V of the History and Culture of the Indian people edited by R. C. Majumdar.

Sri Devaprasad Guha, M. A. Vinaya-Visārada, a Research Scholar (1945-1948) in the Department under the supervision of Prof. B. M. Barua, worked on an interesting subject relating to metrical study in Pali literature. He published a few papers on 'Pali Metres in the Jātakas' in some research journals (J. R. A. S. B. I. C., A. B. O. R. S. etc.) where he pointed out some salient features of Pali metrical verses bearing close similarity with those of the Vedic and early epic versifications. Thus like his predecessors Arnold and Hopkins contributing a great deal to the study of Vedic and Epic metres, Prof. D. P. Guha had already made some distinct contribution to our knowledge of Pali Prosody before other scholars entered into this particular branch of Pali learning. In another of his article entitled "A few knotty points in the Mahāvamsa account of the Second Buddhist Council" (Indian Culture, Vol. X) he made an attempt to diffuse new light on the site of the council and the number of monks participating in the Council. He also edited the Sutta-Saṃgha in collaboration with Sri R. P. Chowdhury.

Prof. Nalinaksha Dutt, who was a recognised authority on Mahāyāna Buddhism, published his magnum opus "Some Aspects of the Mahāyāna Buddhism and its relation to Hīnayāna" (Thesis for D. Litt., London University) in 1930. He is the author of several books on Buddhist studies, some of which are :— Early History of the spread of Buddhism and Buddhist Schools, Early Monastic Buddhism (2 Vols.), Three Principal Schools of Buddhism, etc. The most notable contribution of Dr. Dutt to Buddhist studies is the publication of serial volumes under the title Gilgit Manuscripts, comprising some Mahāyāna texts and a portion of the Mūlasarvāstivāda Vinaya which were edited by him with the assistance of Pandit Shiv Nath Sastri.

Sri Prabhash Chandra Majumder, M. A., Suttavisārada, a Research Fellow (1948-1951) under the supervision of Prof. Dutt, edited and published a Mahāyāna text entitled the 'Maitreya Vyākaraṇa' on the basis of the Gilgit Mss. and Tibetan sources. Sri Sukumar Sen Gupta, M. A., Suttavisārada, another Research Fellow (1949-1952) under the guidance of Dr. Dutt, collected materials for the subject "Medicine and Surgery in Ancient India" from the Buddhist



and Jain sources. He published an original paper on the 'Use of Injections in Ancient India' (on the basis of the Buddhist and Jain texts) in a research journal (Calcutta Orientalists) in 1975. His Doctoral Thesis entitled 'Buddhism in South-east Asia' is awaiting publication.

Sri Sailendra Nath Mitra, M.A., who acquired an excellent mastery of Pali literature and language, evinced a keen interest in the study of Asokan Inscriptions and contributed a number of articles to research journals and periodicals (I.H.Q., I.C., J.D.L., I.A.) throwing new light on the interpretations of some technical words and phrases, identification of some textual references and solution of some disputant points occurring in the inscriptions of Asoka, purely on the basis of literary evidences furnished by Pali texts. He also prepared an edition of the Prakrit Dhammapada in collaboration with Dr. B. M. Barua which was published in 1921 by the Calcutta University. Another publication of the University (1935) is the most popular text on Pali Grammar entitled 'Bālāvatāra' which was also revised and edited by him with English and Bengali translations along with some notes on technical terms.

Sri Gokul Das De, M.A., made an intensive study on the Jātaka literature and the Pali Vinaya Texts. The results of his investigation in this direction were embodied in his works entitled "Significance and importance of Jātakas" and "Democracy in the Early Buddhist Saṅgha" which were published by the University in 1951 and 1953 respectively.

Sri Dwijendra Lal Barua M.A., another veteran scholar in Pali, edited the 'Cariyāpiṭaka Aṭṭhakathā' which was published by the Pali Text Society in 1939. His best contribution to the study of Pali language has been represented by the publication of his 'Pali Grammar' from the Board of Secondary Education which has gained popularity not only among the students but also other persons who are interested in the study of this language.

Prof. Anukul Chandra Banerjee, M.A., LL.B., Ph.D., is an eminent scholar of great repute who has devoted himself ardently and sincerely to the study and investigations in the field of Buddhist learning. He has made valuable contributions to our knowledge of Buddhist Sanskrit literature which have been appreciated by reputed scholars in



India and abroad. The first fruit of his investigations in the domain of Buddhist literature was a volume on 'Sarvāstivāda Literature' (Thesis for Ph. D. Degree) which was published by the Calcutta Oriental Press in 1957. Besides this pioneer work on Buddhist Sanskrit Literature, he has published a number of books of Buddhist interest, some of which may be mentioned in this connection. They are as follows : (1) Buddhism in India and Abroad (1973) (2) Buddha O Bauddha Dharma (Bengali) (3) Buddhism in China, (4) Two Buddhist Vinaya Texts in Sanskrit and the like.

Prof. Anukul Chandra Banerjee was associated with the Department till December 1975 and during the period he occupied the Chair, satisfactory progress was made in the research activities of the Department. He succeeded in training a number of research scholars with a spirit of research, who carried on their research works in various branches of Buddhist learning. He encouraged all earnest workers in the field of research by personally supervising their work, assisting them in their difficulties and guiding them in their investigations whenever necessary. As a result of his encouragement and direct supervision more than twenty young scholars have so far been awarded the Ph. D. Degree by the University of Calcutta on their respective Thesis. It is noteworthy that Dr. Binayendra Nath Chaudhuri was the first candidate who submitted his thesis (after a gap of fifteen years since 1945) under the supervision of Prof. Banerjee and was awarded in 1960 the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (D. Phil) according to new rules and regulations of the University framed for the Doctor's degree. It should be also mentioned that Dr. Asha Das was the first lady student of the Department who submitted her Thesis under the guidance of Dr. A C. Banerjee and the University conferred on her the D. Phil. (Ph.D.) degree in 1966. Incidentally it may be noted that the English translation of the Dutch work entitled 'Hindee-Javancho Goschiodonis' by Dr. N. J. Krom had been sent during this period to the Calcutta University Press which had taken up the work for publication.

Prof. Banerjee had been elected Dean of the Faculty of Arts in March, 1969. He also acted for some time as the President of the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education.



(1976-1983)

The members of the Teaching staff belonging to the Department of Pali have, apart from taking their usual classes and guiding the work of research scholars, contributed independently a great deal to the extension of our knowledge in the field of Buddhism and Buddhist culture by bringing out books, articles and brochures and this will be evident from the list of some of their publications inserted below. :—

Professor Dipak Kumar Barua, M.A., P.R.S, Ph.D., Dip. Lib.

- Books : (1) An Analytical Study of the Four Nikāyas (1971)
 (2) Vihāras in Ancient India : A Survey of Buddhist Monasteries (1969)
 (3) Buddha Gaya Temple—Its History (2nd edition, 1981)
 (4) Anāgārika Dharmapāla—A study (1964).
 (5) Buddhist Art of Central Asia (1981)

He also edited the Jagajjyoti (a Buddha Jayanti Annual) from 1970-1975.

Rev. Dharmadhar Mahasthavir published the Bengali Translations of the Pali Texts—Majjhimanikāya, II, Sāsanavaṃsa and Milindapañha. Rev. Dharmapal Mahathera also brought out his translation work (in Bengali) entitled 'Jātaḥ Nidāna' (1969).

Dr. Kanai Lal Hazra, M.A., LL.B., Ph.D., Dip. Lang.

- Books : (1) History of Theravāda Buddhism in South-east Asia (1982). (2) Royal Patronage of Buddhism in Ancient India (1983). (3) Buddhism in India as described by the Chinese Pilgrims (1983). (4) The Buddhist Annals and Chronicles of South-East Asia (in the Press)

Dr. Asha Das, M.A., Ph.D.,

- Books : (1) Bāṅglā Sāhitye Bauddha Dharma O Saṃskṛiti (1969); (2) Bauddha Dharma O Rabindranath (1968); (3) Triser Saśastra Abhyutthān

Dr. Kshanika Saha, M.A., Ph. D.

- (1) Buddhism and Buddhist Literature in Central Asia (Ph D., Thesis), published in 1970





Besides the above research publications, they have contributed a good number of articles to various Research journals. They are also taking active interest in supervising Research scholars enrolled for Ph. D. degree. A good number of scholars have already been admitted to the Ph. D. degrees of our University under the supervision of Dr. Sukumar sen Gupta, Prof. D. K. Barua, Dr. P. N. Singh and Dr. Kanai Lal Hazra.

Prof. Dipak Kumar Barua made an extensive travel in different parts of the globe in order to attend seminars and conferences held on different occasions. He attended the first International Buddhist Youth Conference held in Bangkok (Thailand) under the auspices of UNESCO and World Fellowship of Buddhists in 1976. He was delegated by the University to attend the International Conference on Indian Ocean Studies sponsored by the University of Western Australia and Western Australian Institute of Technology held at Perth, Western Australia in 1980. He also attended the International Conference on Buddhist Studies held, under the auspices of International Association of Buddhist Studies, at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, U.S.A., in 1981. He was invited by the Japan Foundation, Tokyo, as a fellow (from July to September, 1982) and he delivered lectures in the University of Tokyo, Reiyukoku University of Kyoto, Nagoya University and in the Annual general meeting of the "Society for the promotion of Pali and Buddhist Civilization in Japan, Nagoya" on various aspects of Buddhism. Prof. Barua also left for Bangladesh on an invitation by the National Committee for the celebration of 1000th Birth Anniversary of Atisa Dipankara to attend the meetings on the occasions held in Dhaka and Chittagong in February and March respectively in 1983. He also presided over the sessions of the seminars on Buddhism at Varanasi and Buddha Gaya.

Prof. D. K. Barua has been also rendering his services as Post-graduate Teacher in the Departments of Sanskrit and Library Science since 1976.

Dr. Shyamsundar Banerji, M.A., D. Lit. and Dr. Asha Das, M.A., Ph.D., were invited by the organisers of the Vañgiya Sahitya Sanmellan to attend the Annual Conference held in Port Blair (Andaman) in 1979 where they delivered lectures on some interesting topics relating to Bengali language and literature.



Under-Graduate Classes in Pali

Besides the post-graduate teaching and research, the University made arrangements also for teaching Pali, Arabic and Persian at the Undergraduate level (from Matriculation to B. A. Honours stages) for which facilities were not available in the affiliated schools and most of the colleges in Calcutta. Accordingly Instructors were also appointed by the University. Besides the teaching work of the M.A. Students, some of the teachers of the Post-graduate Department undertook responsibility for teaching Pali, Arabic and Persian in the Under-graduate classes in conjunction with the Instructors appointed specially for the Under-graduate Department. The Undergraduate classes in Pali were started in 1912 and the University received the services of the learned monk Samana Punnananda, Vice-President, Bengal Buddhist Association, Calcutta, who agreed to act as Junior University Lecturer in Pali in order to encourage the study of the subject in the Undergraduate level. In consideration of the large number of students to be taught by him, Babu Benimadhab Barua, B.A. (Hons. in Pali) was also appointed Lecturer in the subject to assist him in the discharge of his duties with effect from the 1st of August, 1913. (C.U. Minutes, V, 1913, p. 1810).

Subsequently, Mr. Mukunda Behari Mallik and Mr. Mahendra Kumar Ghosh were appointed Instructors in Pali for the Under-graduate classes in 1914 and 1916 respectively. The Under-graduate classes in Pali were held in the University under the auspices of the Board of Higher Studies in Pali and the management of these classes was assigned to the Standing Committee formed for this purpose. The following resolutions were adopted in the meeting of the Board of Higher Studies, dated, the 10th May, 1919. (Proceedings of the Council of Post-Graduate Teaching, 1919, C.U., pp 102-103)

"The Board met to consider the arrangements for the Under-Graduate Classes in Pali during the ensuing session, as the Syndicate had requested the Board to undertake the management of these Classes.

i) That the official routine matters such as collection of fees, issue of certificates, be entrusted to the Post-Graduate Office in the same manner as in the case of Post-Graduate Classes.

ii) That the teaching work of the Under-graduate Classes be entrusted to a staff composed partly of Post-Graduate teachers and partly of teachers specially appointed for the purpose.



iii) That the undermentioned members of the Post-Graduate teaching staff be selected for this work during the session 1919-20 :—

Dr. Benimadhab Barua, M.A., D Litt, Babu Sailendranath Mitra, M.A., Babu Nalinaksha Datta, M. A., Samana Punnananda, Babu Gokuldas De, M.A., Swami R. Siddhartha.

iv) That the undermentioned gentlemen be appointed teachers for the Under-Graduate Classes during the session 1919-20 on a remuneration of Rs. 100 a month each :—

Babu Mukundabihari Mallik, M. A., Babu Mahendrakumar Ghosh, M. A.

vi) That an honorarium of Rs. 300 a year be fixed for the remuneration of the following gentlemen :-

Dr. B. M. Barua ; Mr. S. N. Mitra. Mr. N. Datta ; Mr. G. D. De ; Rev. R. Sidhartha.

vii) That the following Standing Committee be appointed to manage the work of the Under-graduate Classes :

The Hon'ble Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, President ; Mahamahopadhyay Dr. Satischandra Vidyahhushan ; Dr. B. M. Barua ; Mr. S. N. Mitra ; Mr. N. Datta ; Samana Punnananda ; Mr. G. D. De ; Rev. R. Siddhartha ; Mr. M. B. Mallik ; Mr. M. K. Ghosh.

viii) That the following scale of monthly tuition fee be adopted :

Matriculation Classes	Re. 1
Intermediate Classes	Rs. 1-8
B. A. Classes (Pass)	Rs. 2
B. A. Classes (Hons.)	Rs. 2-8

Resolved

That the Proceeding be confirmed."

For nearly 20 years these classes were maintained for the benefit of Under-graduate students eager to learn Pali. But as gradually suitable arrangements were made in different affiliated schools and colleges, the University gave up its own efforts in this direction. Accordingly the Under-graduate Pali classes were abolished in 1932.



Certificate and Diploma Courses in Pali

For the benefit of Research scholars, teachers and other interested persons, Pali was also included as an independent subject in the curriculum for the Certificate and Diploma Examinations during the session 1979-1980. Accordingly, it was due to the initiative taken up in this direction by Dr. Dipak Kumar Barua, Professor and Head of the Department of Pali that the University authorities made arrangements for holding Certificate and Diploma classes in Pali during the academic session 1980-81. The first batch of students, appearing at the Certificate Course Examination, came out successful in 1981 and one of them, Srimati Anjali Gupta (Mrs. Ray), M.A. was placed in the First Class. The following Post-Graduate teachers have been serving as Honorary Instructors in Pali even at a partial sacrifice of their time since the commencement of the session 1980-81 :—Prof. Heramba Nath Chatterji, Dr. Sukumar Sen Gupta, Dr. Asha Das and Dr. Probodh Narain Singh.

PALI STUDIES IN THE AFFILIATED COLLEGES

Rangoon College

Amongst the various academic institutions affiliated to the Calcutta University it was the Govt. Rangoon College where Pali was introduced for the first time as a subject of study included in the University Curricula for the Entrance, F.A., and B.A. Examinations. The Government High School at Rangoon was partially raised to the status of a college by the opening of a college department which was affiliated up to the F.A. standard in 1879. Suitable arrangements were made for imparting lessons in Pali upto the F.A. standard in response to the demand of the students interested in the study of this classical language. This was the earliest occasion when the post of a Professor of Pali was created for the first time in the history of Pali studies in the University of Calcutta and was filled up in 1880 by the appointment of an eminent scholar like Dr. E. Forchhammer, the pioneer of Burmese antiquities, who dedicated his life to the cause of the promotion of education and learning in Burma. Four years later the college Department was separated from the school and was further affiliated upto the B.A. Standard with effect from 1st of April, 1883 and thus this Govt. Institution at Rangoon was converted into



a full-fledged First-Grade college (C.U. Minutes of the Syndicate 1884-85. P. 57). Prof. Forchammer continued his teaching work in Pali in the F.A. and B.A. classes till 1890. Next, Mr. James Gray was appointed in his place as Lecturer in Pali. He was the author of a series of popular hand books on Elementary Pali Grammar (First, Second and Third Pali courses) and he also edited the Jinālaṅkāra and the Niti Literature of Burma. He served the College for more than fifteen years discharging his duties as Lecturer in Pali to the entire satisfaction of the students and the college authorities.

The College was exceptionally fortunate in securing the services of so eminent an archaeologist and a Pali scholar as Mon. Charles Duroiselle. After studying Pali in Ceylon and Burma he joined the Rangoon College as Lecturer in November, 1905 and subsequently became Professor of Pali. He published a number of books connected with Pali studies, viz.—(1) Rupasiddhi, a Pali Grammar edited in Burmese Character, (2) Jinacarita (Text, Translation and notes), (3) A Practical Grammar of the Pali language. Prof. Duroiselle could not continue the teaching profession for a long time. He went on deputation on the 24th July, 1912 and the teaching strength of the college, which had been already affiliated in Pali Honours, was for the time being affected to some extent by the transfer of Mr. C. Duroiselle from the college to the Archaeological Department. The inefficiency in this regard was however, remedied to some extent by the appointment of another distinguished scholar, Mr. Pe Maung Tin, M.A. as Professor of Pali.

Prof. Pe Maung Tin translated the Atthasālinī (The Expositor) and the Visuddhimagga (The Path of Purity) of Buddhaghosa into English which were published by the Pali Text Society in 1920-21 and 1927 respectively.

The deficiency of the staff was also made up by the appointment of Ahmed Cassim, B. A. (Hons. in Pali) in the place of Maung Po Lon, Lecturer in Pali, who took leave from the 14th November, 1912 and thus the Pali Department was in full working order. The college made remarkable progress in Pali studies and the results of the Honours Examinations in Pali were most satisfactory during the first three consecutive years from the commencement of its affiliation in Pali Honours. The college passed two students with Honours in Pali in 1910 (one being placed in the first class), three in 1911 and two in 1912.



Baptist College

This Institution had grown out of a school which was established by the American Baptist Missionary Union in 1872 and recognised by the Calcutta University in the year 1882. It was affiliated to the University as a Second grade college in May 1894 and provision was further made in this Baptist Mission College (later on known as Judson College) for the teaching of Pali upto the F.A. standard. Rev. David Gilmore M.A. who first joined the High school in 1890, taught Pali in the College during the two years 1894 and 1895. After Mr. Gilmore had left the College as Professor of Pali, Rev. W. St. John, B.A., was entrusted with the teaching of Pali at the College, as Rev. J.F. Smith had gone home on furlough to qualify himself to teach Pali. Afterwards the College authorities desired to secure for this Institution affiliation upto the B.A. standard with the object of imparting higher education to the people of Rangoon. Accordingly, it was raised to the status of a Firstgrade Arts College, in Rangoon in June 1909. As Pali gradually became a popular subject among the local students, the College was affiliated in Pali upto the B.A. Pass course (along with Philosophy Honours standard) with effect from the session 1913-14 (C U Minutes 1908 Pt. II pp. — 555 ; C. U. Minutes, 1913 Pt. V P .1660). The names of the persons who served the College in subsequent years as Lecturers and Professors of Pali deserve mention in this connection. They are, as follows :—Rev. H.H. Silbe, Mr. L. Hoke Sein, Mr. C. Sherling, Mr. S. N. Mitra, Mr. N. Dutt, and Mr. R P. Chowdhury.

Chittagong College

This Institution grew out of a Zilla school which had been founded in 1836 and was raised by the Government to a college up to the F.A. standard in 1869. The College was the only academic institution outside Calcutta where provision was made for the first time in response to the local demand for a systematic teaching of Pali up to the F. A. standard as early as 1904. Rev. U. Dhammavamsa (Prankrishna Bhikṣu) who had returned from Burma after acquiring a thorough knowledge in Pali, joined the school at first as a teacher of Pali on the first of March 1904.



But he was regarded by the College authorities as competent to teach the subject beyond the Entrance stage and so he was also entrusted with the teaching of Pali as Lecturer in the College Classes. This Buddhist monk, a learned scholar in Pali, dedicated his life to the cause of dissemination of Pali learning among the young students

With the raising of the College to the status of a First grade one the deficiency in the Pali staff was at once made up by the appointment of an additional Professor of Pali. Mr. Mahimaranjan Barua who graduated from the Presidency College with Honours in Pali in 1908, joined the College as Professor of Pali on the 5th July, 1910. As there had been a distinct demand in course of a few years for Honours teaching in Pali among the students and the guardians, an attempt was made by the College authorities to have the College affiliated in Pa'li (along with other subjects) up to the B.A. Honours standard. But the two existing Professors of Pali who had not studied Pali up to the M.A. standard, were not regarded by the University as competent to teach the subject up to the Honours stage. We may quote here the relevant opinion of the University Inspectors from their Report on the College :— "The College may be affiliated in Honours Pali, after one of the two men has taken the degree of M.A. in Pali at the Calcutta University. Pali is extremely popular in Chittagong where the population is largely Buddhistic. In the quiet monasteries not far, enough supplementary teaching is possible to be and as a matter of fact is obtained. This makes it all the more obligatory that the Pali staff should be strengthened by at least one of the Professors being an M.A. in Pali" (C.U. Minutes, 1913 Part V, pp 1730—1749).

The College was duly affiliated in Pali up to the B.A. Honours standard and the teaching strength of the College in this subject was enhanced after Prof. M. R. Barua had been admitted to the M.A. degree in Pali in 1913.

Rev. U. Dhammavamsa had served the College as Lecturer in Pali for more than two decades—a service of selfless dedication and devotion. After his retirement, Mr. Hirendra Lal Sen Gupta M.A. (Gold Medalist) was appointed Lecturer in his place on the 25th November, 1927. Mr. Nirmal Chandra Barua, M.A. (of the City College and the Collegiate school) officiated from time to time as Lecturer in Pali in the place of Prof. M. R. Barua who often went abroad on furlough.



On the retirement of Professor Barua, Mr. Hirendra Lal Sen Gupta officiated as Professor of Pali and Mr. Saroj Bhusan Barua, M.A. was appointed temporary Lecturer in Pali in 1941 in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Professor M. R. Barua. This chain post was finally filled up in 1943 by the appointment of Mr. Promode Ranjan Barua, M.A. (Gold Medalist) as Lecturer in Pali in the place of Mr. Saroj Bhusan Barua resigned.

Presidency College

It was the Presidency College where Pali Classes up to B.A. Honours stage were started for the first time in Calcutta in 1906 or thereabouts. But it is noteworthy that there was no separate Department for Pali studies in the college. It was included in the Department of Sanskrit. No teacher (Professor or Lecturer) was appointed exclusively for this subject. Teachers, having double M.A. degrees in Sanskrit and Pali or having special proficiency in Pali or Prakrit, were considered competent to teach the subject and they were entrusted with the teaching of Pali in the four classes up to the B.A. Honours standard. The college availed itself of the best opportunity of utilising the services of an exceptionally gifted Professor like Mahamahopadhyaya Dr. Satish Chandra Acharyya, Vidyabhushan, for this subject. He was the only Professor of Pali. During the first few years since its commencement, Pali classes had not been formed in the first and second year classes and there had been exceedingly small classes confined only to the Pass and Honours stages of the Degree Course. So Prof. Vidyabhushan gladly undertook the teaching work of Pali besides his usual Sanskrit classes. The results of this college at the B.A. Honours Examinations in Pali from year to year in the past were unique in the history of Pali studies. The college passed one student with Honours in Pali in 1908, two in 1909 and one with first class Honours in 1910. It is significant that Mahimaranjan Barua was the first candidate of the Calcutta University who obtained Honours (Second Class) in Pali for the first time in 1908 and Sailendra Nath Mitra who belonged to the second batch of students appearing at the Pali Honours Examination in 1910 (under the new regulations) stood first in the First class from the Presidency College. Prof. Vidyabhushan continued his duties as Professor of Pali and Sanskrit in this college till he assumed charge of the Principalship of the Sanskrit College.



Next, it was Prof. Nilmani Chakravarty M. A. who took up the responsibility of imparting lessons in Pali to the Intermediate and B. A. students of the college during the session 1909-1910. It was difficult for one man to teach the whole course of Pali efficiently and fully in the four classes up to the B. A. Honours standard. But the number of pupils in the Pali classes had been small for quite a number of years and so the actual amount of teaching work did not overtax the strength of any member of the teaching staff in Pali. Prof. Chakravarty, notwithstanding, managed to keep the small classes in Pali working up to the B.A. (Honours) standard by taking recourse from time to time to the system of combining the 1st and 2nd and more especially the 3rd and 4th year classes. But gradually Pali became a popular subject. There had been in fact a steady increase in the number of students studying Pali in both the Intermediate and B. A. Classes. Mr. Sadananda Bhaduri, M. A. Lecturer in Sanskrit was also associated with the teaching work of Pali, after he had obtained the M. A. Degree in Pali in 1927. Prof. Nilmani Chakravarty (Joint-author of a Pali Grammar with Sri M. K. Ghosh), who served the college for almost quarter of a century, retired in 1933.

The Pali students of the two topmost classes (during 1933-1940) in the Presidency College were fortunate in having Dr. Radhagobinda Basak, M. A., Ph D. as their Teacher who was a Sanskritist by virtue of his academic attainment but a profound scholar in Pali and Prakrit by choice. Dr. Basak joined the College in July 1933 as Professor and Head of the Department of Sanskrit and Sanskritic languages. In addition to his usual duties as Professor of Sanskrit, he used to hold regular classes in Pali (Pass and Honours) for the benefit of the Degree students till he retired in December 1940. After the retirement of Prof. Basak, Dr. Sadananda Bhaduri remained as the only Professor of Pali to take charge of the whole teaching of the subject in the four classes. But as the numerical strength of the Pali students gradually diminished within five or six years during the war period, Prof. Bhaduri managed to maintain the continuance of Pali studies in the College for a few years more without the aid of any additional Lecturer for the subject. Prof. Bhaduri continued his services in the College until he was transferred to the Sanskrit College as its Principal. Mr. Hirendra Lal Sen Gupta, M. A., of the Chittagong College, who offered his option to serve under the Government of West Bengal, joined the Presidency College during 1947-1948 and



acted for some time as Professor of Pali. Mr. Dinesh Chandra Bhattacharyya, M.A. (Sans.), who was admitted to the M.A. degree in Pali in 1943, also taught Pali in the Degree classes for a few hours a week till he was transferred to the Sanskrit College as assistant Professor of Sanskrit.

In course of time the Government and the authorities of the Presidency College felt that Pali classes might be discontinued in the Presidency College premises without causing any detriment to the interest of the Pali students. Pali studies were, however, maintained indirectly in the College with the aid of the Lecturers in the Sanskrit College. This system has been in vogue for the last three decades. At present the students of the Presidency College who offer Sanskrit or Pali are to attend lectures in that subject at the Sanskrit College.

Sanskrit College

The institution enjoys the unique distinction of being the only College in the entire jurisdiction of the Calcutta University which has made adequate provisions for the teaching of Pali upto the B.A. Honours standard. Before the formation of the nucleus of the Pali department in this College, Pali Classes were held occasionally in order to meet the requirements of the Presidency College with the aid of some members of the teaching staff belonging to the Sanskrit Department who were considered competent to teach Pali upto the Honours standard. But as this arrangement was considered inadequate for the progress of so important a subject like Pali, Dr. Gourinath Sastri, the then Principal of the College, decided to make Pali an independent discipline and arranged to set up a separate Department for Pali studies on Honours level. The nucleus of the Department was formed in the beginning with the aid of Mr. Binayendra Nath Chaudhuri M.A. who was appointed in 1959 as whole-time Lecturer in Pali for Presidency College but posted at Sanskrit College. Within a few years the post of a Professor was created and two posts for lectureship were also sanctioned by the Government of West Bengal because of the untiring efforts of Principal, G. N. Sastri. Dr. Biswanath Banerji, M.A., D. Phil. (Munich), joined the College as Professor of Pali in July 1962. Subsequently, Mr. Sukomal Chaudhuri, M.A., Tripiṭaka-Viśārada and Mr. Sadhan Chandra Sarkar, M.A., were also appointed Lecturers in 1964 and 1966 respectively. After Prof. Banerjee had left the College to undertake Professorship of the



Viśvabharati University. Dr. H. N. Chatterji took the charge as Head of the Department. The post of Professor was held in abeyance. Dr. Chatterji was appointed as Professor in 1968. He has been continuing his services in that capacity upto now. Dr. B. N. Chaudhuri, M.A., P.R.S., Ph.D., Dr. Sukomal Chaudhury, M.A., Ph.D., Tripiṭaka-Viśārada, and Dr. Sadhan Chandra Sarkar, M.A., Ph.D., were also promoted in due course as Assistant Professors in the Department.

In course of the last two decades the Department has achieved remarkable success under the efficient headship of Prof. H. N. Chatterjee in collaboration with the three Assistant Professors. The results of the University examinations have been proved to be most satisfactory. From year to year batches of students have been coming out as successful Honours Graduates in Pali, some of whom being placed in the First Class and winning even University Jubilee and National scholarships, almost without any break, since the inception of the Department.

The Departmental teachers are also not lagging behind in research activities. Teachers in the Department in addition to their usual lecture work in the classes, have undertaken researches on various topics relating to Pali and Buddhist studies. They have already published the results of their investigations in the form of books and articles, some of which may be referred to in this connection. Prof. Herambanath Chatterji, M.A., P.R.S., Ph. D. (Cal), D. Phil (Oxon), D.Sc., (Budapest), is a profound scholar in Sanskrit and Pali. His devotion to his subjects, to which he had already made notable contributions, is remarkable. Besides his published works on Hindu Law and Sociology, he also brought out a number of books on Pali and Buddhist studies, viz., Pali and Sanskrit Alaṅkāra (1960), Mūlamādhyaṃika Kārikā (some chapters edited with English translation), Baudha-Darśana (in Sanskrit, The Philosophy of Nāgārjuna as contained in the Ratnāvali (1977), and Bauddhacāryasānmatā Svārthānumāner Saṁkṣipta Ālocanā in Bengali (1983). Dr. B. N. Chaudhury, the seniormost Asstt. Professor, also published his Thesis entitled 'Buddhist Centres in Ancient India' in 1973. He also edited the work entitled 'Studies in Buddhism' (containing select articles of Dr. B. M. Barua) which was published in 1975. His recent work entitled 'Abhidhamma Terminology in the Rūparūpavibhāga' has been just published (1983) from the Sanskrit College. Dr. Sukomal Chaudhuri,



Assistant Professor in the Department, published his Thesis on "Analytical study of the Abhidharmakāśa" from the Sanskrit College in 1976. He is also the author of two other works entitled *Vijñapti-mātratāsiddhi* (edited with Bengali translation and notes) and "Buddhism and Buddhist culture of Bānglādesh" (in Bengali) which were published in 1975 and 1973 respectively. Dr. Sukomal Chaudhury went to Japan in 1980 with a fellowship from Japan Society for the promotion of science. During his sojourn in different Universities, he delivered lectures on Pali and Buddhist philosophy. During his short stay in Japan (August 1980 to May 1981) he wrote an interesting brochure entitled "Buddhist Studies in West Bengal" (incorporated in the Journal known as "Essays on the Pali and Buddhist Civilization") and it was published from Tokyo in 1982. This monograph is a mine of informations relating to the diffusion of Pali and Buddhist learning as well as research activities of the scholars devoted to Buddhist studies all over Bengal (inclusive of Bangladesh). Dr. S. Chowdhury is also the author of the work entitled "Contemporary Buddhism in Bangladesh" (1982). Dr. Sadhan Chandra Sarkar, another Assistant Professor of the Department, also published his Thesis entitled "A Study on the Jātakas and Avadānas" in 1981. Besides this, he has contributed several original papers to various journals relating to some interesting aspects of Buddhism and Buddhist literature.

Lastly, a reference ought to be made to the Centre for 'A Critical Pālī Dictionary' (C.P.D. Centre) which was allowed to be instituted in the College premises by the Ex-Principal Gaurinath Sastri whose intense regard for Indian culture and constant solicitude for the welfare and repute of the Sanskrit College fostered the growth of Pali studies in this institution. This is the only Indian centre for the compilation of the Critical Pali Dictionary sponsored by the Royal Danish Academy, Copenhagen and financed by the Government of India. This C.P.D. Centre accommodated in the Sanskrit College has been functioning since its inception with the help and active co-operation of the Pali Professors of the College and hence it may be treated as a temporary adjunct of the Pali Department. The three Assistant Professors, Dr. B. N. Chaudhury, Dr. Sukomal Chaudhury and Dr. Sadhan Chandra Sarkar have been discharging their duties for about fifteen years as collaborators under the supervision of Prof. H. N. Chatterjee, the Director of the C.P.D. Centre in India. A huge



mass of scheduled articles had been prepared for the purpose during this period. Besides the already printed articles, some are awaiting publication and some are being made ready for the press. The recent appointment of three more Research Assistants has given further impetus to the work of the Centre in this line. These three new Entrants, Smt. Manikuntala Haldar (Mrs. De), M.A., (University Gold Medalist and Kamalrani Gold Medalist), Sri Chittaranjan Patra, M.A., (Gold Medalist) and Smt. Alaka Tapaswi, M.A. are regularly assisting the Collaborators in the conduct of their compilation work and also preparing articles under the fostering care and supervision of Prof. H. N. Chatterji. Dr. Sukumar Sen Gupta has recently joined the Centre as an additional collaborator and he is also engaged in the preparation of articles for the Dictionary.

A special feature of the C.P.D. Centre is its attractive Library which contains a complete set of P.T.S. and Devnagari editions of the Pali texts (canonical and non-canonical) with the available English translations, a few Pali texts in Sinhalese, Siamese, and Burmese scripts, Pali and Sanskrit Dictionaries (hitherto published), and the standard works of research value on ancient Indian History, Philology, and Archaeology. Prof. Chatterjee, the Director of the Centre, has spared no pains to equip the small Library with almost all the available books required for the Dictionary work.

Thus a full-fledged separate Department for Pali learning emerged out of its small existence due to the active support of the Government and patronage of the Ex-Principal, Dr. Sastri and it was for the first time that a separate entity for Pali studies (in full form) was set up in a Government Institution in Calcutta like the Sanskrit College which in the past was mainly confined to Sanskrit studies. The Pali Department as a whole should remain grateful to Dr. Gauri Nath Bhattacharya, Sastri M.A., D. Lit., P.R.S., for his invaluable services rendered to the cause of advancement of learning in Pali, which remind one of some of the beneficial measures adopted by the late Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar for the progress of studies in Sanskrit.

We should further note in this connection that Prof. H. N. Chatterji, Dr. Sukomal Chaudhury and Dr. Sadhan Chandra Sarkar are attached to the Departments of Sanskrit and Pali in the University of Calcutta as Post-Graduate Teachers. Dr. Binayendra Nath Chaudhury is also rendering his services as Lecturer in the Department of Pali.



Incidentally it should be mentioned that Dr. Biswanath Banerjee, M.A., Dr. Phil (Munich) had been associated with the C.P.D. Centre as Director for some consecutive years since its inception. But later on, he ceased to be its Director on the score of various responsible duties that were to be discharged by him as a Professor of the Visvabharati University at Santiniketan.

During the succeeding years the Pali Department of the College attained considerable development in the sphere of Teaching and Research activities, owing much to the warm support and encouragement of Principal Bishnupada Bhattacharyya, M. A., P. R. S., who retired from his services in February 1983. Dr. Muniswar Jha, M. A., D. Lit. (Paris), now the Director of Public Instruction, Govt. of West Bengal, also used to take active interest in the furtherance of Pali studies during the short tenure of his services in the capacity of Principal of the College.

It is a matter of great pleasure that Prof. Heramba Nath Chatterji has been recently appointed as Principal of the College. It is expected that the Department of Pali studies will maintain its reputation and will gradually progress under the stewardship of Dr. Chatterji as Principal and an ardent lover of Oriental learning.

Vidyasagar College (Formerly Metropolitan Institution)

Next to the Chittagong College, Metropolitan Institution ranked as the second college in Bengal, where Pali was introduced as a subject of study upto the B. A. (Pass) standard under the auspices of the Governing Body and also Mr. Sarada Ranjan Ray, the Vice-Principal of the College. Pandit Amulya Charan Ghosh, Vidyabhushan, an eminent linguist and Indologist, was appointed Professor of Pali on the 1st August 1905 and he continued his services in that capacity till his death in 1939. Sri Bishnucharan Bhattacharyya, B. A. (Hons. in Pali), M. A. (Bengali), who was appointed Professor of Bengali on the 1st February 1922, also rendered his partial services in the Interme-



diated and the Degree classes as a successful Professor of Pali. Subsequently, the college was granted extension of affiliation in Pali Honours in 1934 and a lady student named Usha Rani DasGupta was the first regular student to secure Honours in Pali from the Vidyasagar College in 1936.

Sri Niradranjan Mutsuddi, M. A., the well-known author of Pali Grammar, who was the Senior Teacher of Pali in the Collegiate schools (Metropolitan Main and Burrabazar Branch), was appointed part-time Assistant Professor of Pali in July 1934 for this purpose. After the death of Pandit A. C. Vidyabhushan, Sri N. R. Mutsuddi, M. A. was appointed whole-time Professor of Pali and he continued his services in the college till his retirement in 1953. Sri Prabhat Kumar Mukherjee, M. A., P. R. S., Professor of Sanskrit, an eminent scholar in Prakrit, was also entrusted with the teaching of Prakrit in the Pali classes. After the retirement of Prof. N. R. Mutsuddi, the Pali classes in the Intermediate and Degree stages were totally abolished from the college which was the only private Institution in Bengal, accommodating Pali studies upto the Honours standard.

Feni College (Noakhali)

Affiliation in Pali upto the B. A. (Pass) standard was sought for in 1929 and it was granted in time. Accordingly, Mr. Lalit Kumar Barua, M. A. (Gold Medalist) was appointed Professor of Pali on the 16th August, 1929 and he carried on his teaching work in Pali single-handed in all the four classes most satisfactorily for over fifteen years.

City College

The college was affiliated upto the B. A. Pass standard in Pali during the session 1932-33. Mr. Debabrata Chakrabarti, M. A. (Gold Medalist), formerly Tutor in Pali, Rangoon University College, joined the college as Professor of Pali in July 1932. He was assisted in the teaching of Pali by Mr. Nirmal Chandra Barua, M. A. (Silver Medalist),



Senior Teacher of Pali, in the collegiate school. He used to take his classes on every Saturday after school-hours, for the benefit of Pali students. Mr. D. Chakrabarti, who served the Institution as Professor of Pali for nearly 28 years, died in 1960 and after his death the teaching of Pali was discontinued in the college.

Ripon College (Surendra Nath College)

As Pali gradually gained popularity in Calcutta, the authorities of the Ripon College decided to open Pali classes upto the Degree standard. The College was granted affiliation in Pali upto the B. A. (Pass) standard from the commencement of the session 1936-37. Mr. Jyotish Chandra Ghatak, M. A. (Triple) joined the college as Professor of Pali and he continued his services in that capacity for several years.

Sir Ashutosh College, Kanungopara (Chittagong)

- The College received University recognition from June 1939.
- It had been granted affiliation in Pali upto the Intermediate standard and Mr. Surendranath Barua, M. A., was appointed Professor of Pali. This was the second Private College in East Bengal before (independence) which provided facilities to the students for learning Pali upto the Intermediate course.

Maharaja Manindra Chandra College

It was established as a first grade college in 1941. The college received affiliation in Pali upto the Intermediate standard along with other usual subjects. Mr. Prabhash Chandra Majumdar, M. A., Suttavisārada, joined the college as Professor of Pali and he continued to serve the college in that capacity till the end of the session 1955-56. It was due to the persistent effort of Prof. P. C. Majumdar for several years that the college secured extension of affiliation in Pali upto the B. A. (Pass) standard during the session 1952-53. After Prof. Majumdar



had been appointed University Lecturer in Pali, due to the retirement of Mr. Gokuldas De, in August 1955, Mr. Sukumar Sen Gupta, M. A., Suttavisāra, was appointed in his place as Professor of Pali in July 1956. After Prof. Sengupta had joined the University as whole-time Lecturer in Pali, Mr. Kanailal Hazra, M. A. (Gold Medalist), LL. B. served the college as Professor of Pali for a short period before his departure to Ceylon for higher studies and in the long run the study of Pali discontinued in the College after its duration for more than two decades.

Ramthakur College, Agartala.

This is the only College outside Calcutta which has been maintaining successfully the teaching of Pali up to the B. A. Pass standard since the foundation of the college in 1967. Mr. Manotosh Karmakar, M. A., the recipient of the N. N. Law Gold Medal (1959), was the first Professor of Pali at the initial stage. Gradually the strength of the teaching staff in Pali was enhanced by the temporary appointment of Mr. Priyatosh Barua, M. A. as Lecturer in Pali. Afterwards, Jnankirti Sraman M. A. (Gold Medalist) joined the College as the second Professor of Pali in 1976. The progress in Pali studies in the college in recent years has been sufficiently gained. The numerical strength of the Pali students, though insignificant in the past, shows a marked tendency to increase. It is gradually swelling up and has almost reached 150 in number, from the negligible number in the past ranging from 20 to 25. The gradual popularity of the subject in the college may be traced to the efforts and patronage extended to the cause of Pali learning by the late Principal, Dr. Rabindra Nath Das, M. A., P. R. S., Ph., D, who started the Pali classes at the very beginning and took the responsibility of the teaching work in Pali in spite of his multifarious duties to be performed as administrative Head of the Institution.

Pali is also a very popular subject in the Ramthakur H. S. school where Dr. Buddhadatta Bhikkhu, M. A. Ph. D, Tripiṭaka-
visāra, is in the charge of Pali studies.



Inclusion of Pali and Buddhism in the Syllabi of Allied Subjects

(i) Indian Vernaculars (Bengali, Hindi, Maithili, Oriya, Gujrati, Assamese, Urdu) or Modern Indian Languages.

When the Syllabuses were drawn up for Indian Vernaculars, Pali found a place in the list of basic languages which included the following —Prakrit, Pali and Persian. The candidates were to select any two of these languages included in Paper VII carrying 100 (50+50) marks for the M. A. Examination which came into effect for the first time in 1920. Subsequently Pali was included along with Prakrit (as MIA course of study) in the first half of Paper II carrying 50 (25+25) marks according to the revised M. A. Syllabuses for Modern Indian Languages which came into effect from the examination of 1941 (C.U. Proceedings of the Council, 1919-1924, C.U. Calendar 1942).

(ii) Comparative Philology :- Pali also formed a most important subject for post-graduate study in Comparative Philology and it was included in the Syllabus for Indo-Aryan Branch which may be stated below :

M. A. Course :

Paper IV (carrying 100 marks)—Historical Grammar of Middle Indo Aryan (Pali and Prakrits)—(Proceedings of the Council, 1919-1924 ; 1935)

B. A. Course :

It may be further stated that Pali was also included as an alternative subject in the Honours Syllabus for B.A. Linguistics :

Paper IV—Grammar of one of the following Languages treated comparatively and historically—English, Sanskrit, Pali and Persian (C.U. Proceedings—1935).

(iii) Sanskrit

Pali was included for the first time (along with Buddhist Sanskrit) by M.M. Vidhusekhar Sastri during his Professorship as a part of the course prescribed for Group II (Prakrit) in the revised Syllabus of M. A. Sanskrit, in view of the fact that dissociation of the



study of Pali as well as Buddhist Sanskrit from the study of Prakrit should be always considered as inadequate for proper specialization in Prakrit. The revised Syllabus (in relation to Pali and Buddhist Sanskrit), which came into effect from the examination of 1941, may be stated thus :

Group H-Prakrit

Paper VI—Second Half

Pali and Buddhist Sanskrit

50 (25 + 25) marks

Paper VIII—First Half

Pali Grammar

20 marks

(IV) Ancient Indian History and Culture

The importance of the study of Buddhism which forms an integral part of Indian Culture, was fully appreciated by the University authorities and they included 'History of Buddhism' as one of the subjects in the syllabus of Group III (Religious History, Paper VII) prescribed for the M. A. Examination in Ancient Indian History which came into operation from the commencement of the academic session 1918-1919 (C.U. Proceedings of the Council 1919, ff 173-175).

(V) Philosophy

This important branch of study was also included by the Board of Higher Studies in Philosophy in the M. A. Course for Philosophy. Buddhist Philosophy formed an important part of the Syllabus prescribed for the Compulsory Paper III (Outlines of Indian Philosophy) in the M.A. Subject entitled 'Mental and Moral Philosophy'. In course of time the scope of the syllabus was further widened so as to include Buddha-Jaina Group among the optional subjects of study relating to special Branch of Indian Philosophy (C.U. Proceedings of the Council, 1919, 1925 and 1935).

Doctorate Degree

It was in 1908 that the degree of Doctor of Philosophy was conferred for the first time by the University upon two distinguished scholars, viz. Mahamahopadhyaya Satish Chandra Vidyabhushan (of the Pali and Sanskrit Departments) and Abdulllah Suhrawardy, for their respective outstanding works in the field of Ancient Indian Logic



and in the field of Mahomedan Jurisprudence. Later on, Bimala Churn Law was the first alumnus of the Department who obtained the highest academic degree of Ph. D. (in Arts) from the Calcutta University in 1924 on his work entitled "Some Kshatriya Tribes of Ancient India". In the following year Nalinaksha Datta was awarded the Ph. D. degree by the Calcutta University on his Thesis entitled "The spread of Buddhism and the Buddhist Schools." Then after a long interval of about two decades, Anukul Chandra Banerjee, another bonafide student of the Department, submitted his Thesis entitled "Sarvāstivāda Literature," for which he was awarded this academic honour in 1945. The example set by Dr. Banerjee was followed from year to year thereafter by batches of young scholars who came forward to submit the results of their research on various aspects of Buddhism for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. It is a matter of congratulation that more than 27 scholars have so far been awarded Ph. D. degrees (in Arts) under the supervision of Prof. A.C. Banerjee, Dr. Sukumar Sen Gupta, Prof. D. K. Barua, Dr. Prabodh Narayan Singh, and Dr. Kanai Lal Hazra.

A few distinguished alumni of the Department also proceeded to England, Germany and Ceylon in order to qualify themselves with research degrees of the foreign Universities. Besides the two distinguished Professors of the Department who had been admitted to the highest academic degree (D. Litt.) in the University of London, we may mention the names of Jinananda Bhikshu (B. Jinananda) and Anil Chandra Pal, who were admitted to the Ph. D. degree of the London University for their research works in different spheres, the former in the field of Vinaya Literature and the latter in the field of Archaeology. The Dr. Phil degree was also awarded to Biswanath Banerjee by the University of Munich for his Thesis on a Kalacakrayāna Text. Kanai Lal Hazra was the next scholar who was admitted to the Ph. D. degree of the University of Ceylon in the year 1968 for his Thesis entitled "Religious Intercourse among the Theravāda countries in South-east Asia."

It should be further noted in this connection that Dr. Bimala Churn Law was awarded the D. Litt degree of Lucknow University in 1942 on his Thesis entitled "India as described in early Texts of Buddhism and Jainism."



Award of P.R.S

* Prof. Nalinaksha Datta was the first bonafide alumnus of the Department who was awarded the Premchand Roychand Studentship in 1920 for his dissertation on the "Four Buddhist Schools." Within a few years his example was emulated by another Pali scholar, Ramaprasad Chaudhury who stepped into his shoes in this direction and obtained P.R.S. on the basis of his researches on the subject entitled "Women in Pali literature." Subsequently some of the young teachers also ventured to submit their respective dissertations for P.R.S. Mention should be made of these distinguished teachers, who were awarded the Premchand Roychand Studentship, viz. Suniti Kumar Pathak (Lecturer Visvabharati), Binayendra Nath Chaudhury (Asst. Prof. Sanskrit College), *Dipak Kumar Barua (Professor, Department of Pali, C.U.) and *Rabindra Nath Das (Principal, Tripura Govt. Sanskrit College).

* Also Mount Gold Medallist.

Griffith Memorial Prize :

Dr. Bimala Charan Law, an exstudent of the Department, was the first recipient of the Griffith Memorial Prize (in 1931) on his dissertation entitled "The Pali Pitakas—Chronology and General History", submitted for the above award. Next it was Dr. Asha Das who obtained the prize (in 1969) on her dissertation entitled "Buddha Dharma O Rabindranath" written in Bengali. After a few years Dr. Rabindranath Basu also won the Griffith Prize for his researches relating to Buddhist Sangha.

Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee Gold Medal

Dr. Bimala Charan Law is known to have been the only alumnus of the Department upto now who submitted his Thesis entitled "Heaven and Hell in Buddhist Perspective" for Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee Medal for 1924 and he was awarded the medal in due time.

Eshan Scholar

Mr. Sudhindra Nath Chakrabarty is the only Eshan scholar who appeared with Honours in Pali from the Presidency College at the B.A. Examination 1927 and topped the list of all successful Honours graduates of the year.



Kamalrani Gold Medal

It is gratifying to note that two bonafide lady students (Sm. Subhra Sengupta and Sm. Manikuntala Halder) were awarded the Kamalrani Gold Medal for having obtained the highest number of marks (in the First class) among all the lady students appearing at the respective M.A. Examinations.

N. N. Law Gold Medal for Pali Studies

Two Medals inscribed with the name of the eminent scholar N. N. Law were awarded to the best successful Pali students appearing at the Matriculation and I. A. Examinations. Dr. Rabindra Nath Basu, an alumnus of this Department is the first recipient of this Medal appearing at the Matriculation Examination in 1951 from the Rani Bhabani School.

Nalinaksha Dutt Scholarship

Prof. N. Dutt used to deposit Rs. 800/- every month from his salary for sometime to create an endowment for the annual award of a monthly Scholarship (Rs 50/-) for a meritorious P. G. student of Pali. Since the award of this Scholarship, the students of this Department have been availing themselves of the opportunity of obtaining this scholar-ship from year to year.

B. C. Law Gold Medal

The B. C. Law Memorial Medal was awarded by his wife Mrs. K. K. Law to Sm. Gayatri Das Gupta, M.A. in Pali (Class I) in the year 1959 for her efficiency in Pali Literature.

Distinguished Pali Ex-Students of the University

It will not be going out of the way to refer in this connection to some of the notable teachers of the past and the present associated with Universities outside Calcutta and abroad. The names of such distinguished alumni of the Pali Department are as follows :—

Sri Charandas Chatterjee M.A. (formerly Professor and Head of the Dept. of Indian History, Lucknow University and Ex-Professor, Gorakhpur University) : Sri Ramaprasad Chaudhury M. A. P. R. S., (formerly Professor of Pali, Baptist College and Ex-Lecturer, University of Rangoon). Sri Debabrata Chakravarti, M.A., (Ex-Tutor, University



College Rangoon), Rev. Anomdarahi Bhikshu, M.A., (Ex-Lecturer, Banaras Hindu University), Dr. Birinchi Kumar Barua (Ex-Secretary, P.G Council, Gauhati University), Sri Devaprasad Guha, M.A., Vinaya-visārada (Ex-Lecturer, Class I, University of Rangoon and also Ex-Lecturer, Banaras Hindu University); Sri Pramod Ranjan Barua, M.A. (Cal), M.A. (Lond), formerly Principal Chittagong Govt. College, and Ex-Chairman, Deptt. of Oriental Languages, Chittagong University; Sri Ranadhir Barua, M.A. (Ex-Assistant Professor, Chittagong University); Dr. B. Jinananda (Ex-Professor, Dept. of Buddhist Studies, University of Delhi), Dr. Biswanath Banerjee (now Professor of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, Visvabharati University), *Dr. (Miss) Sudhamayi Sen Gupta (at present, Reader, Dept. of Buddhist Studies, Delhi University), Dr. Madhusudan Mallick (now, Reader, Dept. of Sans, Pali and Prakrit, Visvabharati University), Sri Suniti Kumar Pathak, M.A., P.R.S., (now Lecturer, Dept. of Tibetan Studies, Visvabharati University) and Dr. Rabindra Vijay Barua (now, Associate Professor, Dacca University); and also Sri Pulin Bihari Barua, M.A., M.Lib., (Head of the Dept. of Lib. Science, Burdwan University).

* the first Lady student to obtain the M. A. degree in Pali

Besides the above literati of Universities, mention may be made of some of the ex-students who made their mark in the past in other fields of activities and also a few of other alumni who have now distinguished themselves in various walks of life.

The names of such persons may be stated as follows :—

The Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behari Mallik, M.A., Ex-Minister, Govt. of British Bengal; The Hon'ble Mr. Nirmal Chandra Mookerjee, M.A. (Gold-Medalist), L.L.B. Ex-Judge, Calcutta High Court; The Hon'ble Mr. Maung Thein Maung, who adorned the post of Chief Justice in Burma; Maung Lu Pe Win, M.A. (Gold-Medalist), who became Superintendent (Director) of Archaeology in Burma; Sri Sudhindra Nath Chakravarti, (Eshan Scholar), M.A. (Gold Medalist) who held the post of Assistant Curator in the Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay; Sri Martanda Pratap Barua, M.A., now Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Health, Bangladesh; Dr. Satadal Kumar Kar, one of the eminent Astrologers and a distinguished scholar in Astrological science; Sri Saurendranath Mitra, M.A. (Gold Medalist), Proprietor, Readers' Corner (publishing firm) and Managing Partner Bodhi Press, who is now Vice-President of the Publishers' and Book-



sellers' Association of Bengal and also the Vice-President of West Bengal Master Printers' Association; Dr. Lakshman Chandra Sen Gupta, a veteran Sanskrit and Pali Scholar and Professor (Jaminibhushan Astanga Ayurveda College) who has distinguished himself as an eminent Āyurvedic physician in Calcutta; Sri Debabrata Barua, M. A., Retired Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Govt. of West Bengal; Sri Gauranga Sundar Chatterji M. A. LL. B., an eminent Lawyer, practising in Calcutta High Court; Dr. Barindra Nath Barua, Retired Assistant Accountant General, West Bengal and Ex- Deputy Director (Finance) Indian Museum, Calcutta; Sri Subhuti Banjan Barua, M. A., Assistant Collector, Central Excise and Land Customs; and Debapriya Walisingha, Ex- General Secretary, Mahabodhi Society. It is also pertinent to refer here to three more old alumni associated with Pali studies who made some distinct contributions to the widening of our knowledge in respect of ancient Indian language and literature, viz, (1) Mr. Gopaldas Chaudhuri, M. A., B. L. (Zemindar of Sherpur, Mymenshingh in British Bengal), a patron of liberal arts and education, who published a few important Buddhist texts translated into Bengali; (2) Dr P. L. Vaidya, Ex-Director, Mithila Institute of P. G. Studies and Research, Darbhanga, who edited and published a number of Buddhist and Jain texts in Devanagari script; and (3) Dr. Udayi Narain Tiwary, a reputed scholar in the field of Linguistic studies.

Foreign Students and Research Scholars in the Department

The University of Calcutta was considered in the past in the adjacent Buddhist countries as an important centre of Buddhist studies conducted on scientific lines. As a matter of fact, Pali studies in the University attracted a number of young persons (including Buddhist monks) of Burma, Ceylon and Thailand who enrolled themselves from time to time as students in College and University classes in order to pursue their studies with special reference to Pali. Among such students in recent times, mention may be made of a few like, Phra Maha Fuan Bunyotha (Thailand) who obtained his M.A. degree in Pali in 1971; Rev. Walpola Piyananda, (Sri Lanka), an M.A. in Pali, 1973, who is now the President of the Dharmavijaya Buddhist Society, California, U.S.A.; and Rev. Walpola Kalyanatissa, a student of the Department, who is a candidate for the ensuing M.A. examina-



tion in Pali. We should also mention in this connection that Mr. J. Perera of Sri Lanka was admitted to the Ph. D. degree of this University in 1967 under the supervision of Prof. Anukul Chandra Banerjee. Phra Maha Fuan Bunyotha, M.A., also obtained the Ph. D. degree in 1977 under the supervision of Prof. A. C. Banerjee.

It may be further noted that Dr. Rabindra Vijay Barua, M.A. Ph.D. Associate Professor Dacca University, joined the Dept. of Pali as U.G.C (Teacher) Fellow in order to carry on advanced investigations in the field of Buddhist studies. During the tenure of his Fellowship (1977-1980) he also assisted in the teaching work of the Department. Prof. Sunanda Barua M.A. of the Govt. Women's College in Dacca who had carried on her research work under the supervision of Dr. Sukumar Sen Gupta submitted her Thesis in 1982. At present Dr. Asha Das is supervising the research work of Sri Pranab Kumar Barua, M.A., a Research scholar from Bangladesh, who is expected to submit his Thesis for Ph. D. very shortly. Sri Rebata Priya Barua, M.A., another Research scholar (Bangladesh), has been also carrying on his researches for about two years under the guidance of Prof. Dipak Kumar Barua for the Ph. D. degree of this University.

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APPENDIX

Institutions in close touch with the University

(i) Viswabharati (Santiniketan, Bolpur, Birbhum)

The College at Santiniketan was one of the various Institutions of Viswabharati which had grown out of an experimental school started by the Poet Rabindra Nath Tagore in 1901 on the foundation of the Brahmacharyaśrama (named Santiniketan) which owed its inception to his father Maharsi Debendra Nath Tagore. Pali classes were practically started in this Institution after MM. Vidhusekara Bhattachariya, Sastri had joined the Brahmacharyaśrama as an Adhyāpaka (Professor) of Sanskrit in 1904. Rabindranath was a patron and an ardent lover of Pali and Buddhist studies and he always emphasized the necessity of such studies like Pali, Buddhist, Sanskrit, Tibetan and Chinese in order to acquire a comprehensive knowledge in Buddhism and Puddhist culture. The poet Tagore initiated the learned Professor Vinhusekhar Sastri into Pali and Tibetan studies and it was his inspiration and encouragement that helped him in the long run to bring out a number of valuable works on Pali, Tibetan, and Buddhist Sanskrit Languages during his tenure of services at Santiniketan and in the University of Calcutta.

Although the College section of the Viswabharati was not regularly affiliated to the Calcutta University, it was recognised by the University in 1926 as an Institution for higher studies (Recognition granted under Section 7, Chapter XVI of the University Regulations) and the students, attending this Institution, enjoyed the privilege of appearing at the I. A. and B. A. Examinations of this University as non-collegiate students. Provision was made for the teaching of Pali along with Sanskrit from the Intermediate to the B. A (Pass & Honours) stages. Pali was included in the Combined Department of Sanskrit, Bengali, Hindi and Linguistics for which the authorities continued to maintain an efficient teaching staff. The members of the teaching staff for Sanskrit, Pali, Bengali, Hindi and Linguistics were as follows :—

- 1) Vidhusekhara Sastri : 2) Kshitimohan Sen, M. A. 3) Nitaibenode Goswami, Kavyatirtha, Suttavisarada : 4) Nagendranarayan Choudhury, M. A. 5) Mrs. Sudhamoyee Mukherjee : 6) Miss. Asha Adhikari, M. A. : 7) Bijanbehari Bhattacharyya, M. A., 8) Manilal Patel, Ph. D. : 9) Dr. Hazariprasad Dwivedi, Sastracharya :



10) Sujit Kumar Mukherjee, Kavyatirtha, Sastravisarada (C. U. Calendars, 1932, 1933, 1940).

The Viswabharati was gradually "incorporated in 1951 as a Central University by Act XXIX of 1951 of Indian Parliament which declared it as an institution of national importance and provided for its functioning as a University, Residential and teaching University" (Handbook of Universities in India, U. G. C. 1963 page 226, New Delhi).

(ii) The Nalanda Vidyabhavan (The College of Buddha Knowledge)

The idea of opening a Pali College (on the model of the Oriental Department of the Sanskrit College) in Calcutta, where Pali was gradually gaining in popularity, first flashed on Dr. B. M. Barua as early as 1934. This noble idea cherished by Prof. Barua received an encouraging response from the Bengal Buddhist Association and it was materialised in 1935 by the efforts of a few young social workers and patrons of learning of whom Sree Bhupendra Nath Mutsuddi played the leading part in this direction, in co-operation with some of the distinguished members of the Association. The Vidyabhavan started functioning from March, 1935 in the Dhamankur Vihar (1, Buddhist Temple Street, Bowbazar) until it was shifted to the adjacent Arya-Vihara (in the same compound), the new massive building constructed in 1937 for the accommodation of Buddhist monks and pilgrims under the munificence of Raja Baldeodas Birla. Sree Bhupendra Nath Mutsuddi, a lawyer by profession, who had been the Secretary of the Institution for a few years, lost no time in securing the services of a competent Oriental scholar in Pali like Ven. Vamsadvipa Mahasthavir of Chittagong who gladly agreed to join the Vidyabhavan as its first Principal. But he had to leave Calcutta in 1939 for reasons of health. In the same year Pandit Jagadish Chandra Chatterji, B. A. (Cantab) joined the College as its Principal on the initiative of Prof. B. M. Barua. Being himself a reputed scholar in Oriental learning with a number of valuable works (Hindu Realism, Kashmir Saivism, etc) to his credit, Sree J. C. Chatterji felt the necessity of making Pali studies more vital and up to date both on Oriental and western method of systematic teaching. He also used to take a few classes



for the benefit of students so that they might feel a keen interest in Buddha knowledge through the Original Pali and Sanskrit Texts. Prof. B. M. Barua, the President of the Vidyabhavan, also used to take active interest in the conduct of teaching and he succeeded in inspiring a number of advanced students with a spirit of research in Oriental studies (in both Pali and Sanskrit) beyond the curriculum for Title examinations.

Pandit J. C. Chatterji had to leave the Institution in 1941 for reasons of health. Next it was Rev. Silachar Bhikkhu (Prof. Silachar Sastri) who took the charge of the College as Principal. After a short period he was succeeded to the Principalship by Rev. Jinananda Bhikkhu (Dr. B. Jinananda) in 1943. Rev. Jinananda remained in that position till 1945 in which year he was succeeded by Ven. Visuddhananda Mahasthavir (the translator of the Bhakti-Satakam) whose tenure of office as Principal was not long. He had to leave Calcutta in 1946. Afterwards Pandit Dharmadhar Mahasthavir joined the Vidyabhavan as Principal. He has been serving the Institution in that capacity since 1946 upto now. At present he is assisted in the conduct of teaching by Rev. Prajnajyoti Bhikkhu (Mahasthavir), Vinayavisārada, and in other important affairs by Dr. Sukomal Chaudhuri, Hony. Secretary, of the Vidyabhavan.

Amongst the former Teachers (Adhyāpakas) who rendered their services with whole-hearted devotion to the cause of progress of the Institution, mention may be made of the following :— Prajnananda Mahasthavir (Translator of the Mahavagga), Dhirananda Mahasthavir (also offg. Principal), Dharmapal Bhikkhu (Mahathera), Anomadārshi Bhikkhu, Girish Chandra (Barua) Vidyavinod and Sukumar Sen Gupta.

At the initial stage the Institution was maintained by the generosity (in the form of subscriptions and donations) of the persons who felt a great interest in the cause of its welfare. But gradually the financial responsibility of running the Institution smoothly practically devolved on Dr. Arabinda Barua, who had been its patron and wellwisher since its inception. His name will not be easily forgotten for his valuable services in securing for the Institution Govt. recurring grants and stipends and also temporary aids of the Corporation, supplemented by occasional award of stipends from the Halwasia Trust funds.



Mention should also be made of some of the eminent scholars and distinguished persons, who served the Institution in different capacities, such as, Prof. Nalinaksha Dutta (President), Dr. Kalidas Nag (Vice-President), Prof. Anukul Chandra Banerji (President), Dr. Pratap Chandra Chunder (Vice-President), Mr. Indua Bhushan Beed (Treasurer), Dr. Arabinda Barua (Treasurer), Mr. Satyendra Nath Mutsuddi (Secretary), Mr. Abinash Chandra Barua, etc. Rev. Anomadarshi Bhikshu (Prof. B. Anomadarshi) and Dr. Sukumar Sen Gupta acted for years as Joint-Secretaries till their appointment as Lecturers in the respective Universities of Banaras and Calcutta.

The Vidyabhavan prepares students for the Oriental examinations conducted by the Bengal Govt. Sanskrit Association (Vangiya Samskrita Shiksha Parisad) on three distinct types of study relating respectively to Sutta, Vinaya and Abhidhamma. The successful candidates at the Title (Upādhi) examinations are awarded the degree of 'Visārada' which is subjoined to the subjects in which they come out successful, for instance, Suttavisārada, Vinayavisārada, etc. Students passing the first (Adya) and second (Madhya) examinations receive certificates indicative of their success in the respective examinations.

The introduction of the Title examinations in Pali (in 1915) gave a great impetus to the advancement of Pali learning. As a matter of fact, numerous students of the Vidyabhavan came out successful at the respective examinations conducted by the Sanskrit Association and some of them adopted the teaching profession in and outside Calcutta. The Institution also attracted the attention of lady students for whom classes were started with effect from the session 1939-40. A good number of lady students who prosecuted their studies in the Vidyabhavan, duly passed the First, Second and Title examinations. Smt. Jyotsna Das Gupta (Mrs. Sen Gupta) was the first Indian lady student who obtained the title of Suttavisārada in 1943. Subsequently, Mrs. Bani Chatterji and Mrs. Krishna Barua were also admitted to this title of Suttavisārada as a result of their success at the Final (upādhi) examination.

The Institution also offers facilities for Pali studies to the College and University students and it has been maintaining close touch with the Pali Department, University of Calcutta in various ways since its inception.



(iii) The Nari Silpa Niketan

The Nari Silpa Niketan was founded on the 22nd July 1952 by a band of enthusiastic young women under the inspiring leadership of Miss Asha Das, the then Secretary of the Institution, in pursuance of the spirit of ideals set forth by Sister Nivedita and Birangana Pritilata of revered memory, who had nobly and cheerfully dedicated their lives to the cause of India's uplift and her independence. The first President of the Executive committee was Sjt. Prabhavati Devi Saraswati, the well-known writer of several Bengali novels of great charm and literary merit. At present Dr. Manjusri Datta Gupta, Professor of English (Rabindra Bharati University and the University of Calcutta) is rendering honorary services as President and Sri Amita Palit, M. A., B. T., Assistant Education Officer, Calcutta Corporation, is also discharging her duties as Hony. Secretary of the Institution. The Institution started with a small beginning. But in course of three decades since its foundation, it has progressed remarkably with a steady march in various directions with diverse activities.

The main training centre, located at 3, Shambhu Chatterji Street, Cal-70007, provides ample facilities for systematic training in different courses bearing on vocational, social, academic and cultural interest. For the sake of convenience these different courses of instruction have been split up and allotted to separate Departments, each having an Instructor in charge. A few highly qualified staff members have been rendering their voluntary services in honorary capacity to the cause of welfare of the two Language Departments (Bengali and Hindi), since their inception in 1953. For a number of years in the past, students, under their guidance, came out successful, having secured the topmost positions at different examinations conducted by the Lok-Siksa Samsad (Visvabharati) and the Wardha Rastrabhasa Pracar Samiti respectively.

The 'Samskrita, Siksa Vibhaga' is another striking development of this Institute for women. For the stimulation of Sanskrit and Pali culture an Oriental or Tol Department was further added in 1957 for the benefit of intending students, who wanted to pick up acquaintance with these classical languages, so that they might have opportunities in pursuing such studies in the future up to the higher rungs useful for their purpose.



As for the teaching of Pali it should be pointed out that this is the only Institution in Calcutta for women, which has provided facilities for Pali studies run on Oriental or Tol system of training. Although the teaching imparted at the present time is mainly concerned with the courses of study, prescribed by the Govt. Sanskrit Association, it aims also at providing facilities for systematic training in research to the Intending students, having an aptitude for carrying on investigations in the unexplored fields of Sanskrit and Pali learning. Since the inception of this Department, students have been attending the courses of instructions required for the three stages of examinations (Adya, Madhya and Upadhi) conducted by the Vangiya Samskrita Siksha Parisad which has recognised the Institution as a centre of Oriental learning for Lady students. This Department of Oriental studies has been placed in the charge of Sree Phani Bhushan Das, M. A., B. T. who is a staunch and devoted educationist, taking keen interest in Sanskrit and Pali studies. He is assisted in the conduct of teaching by the following scholars :— Dr. Bani Das, Sumita Sen Gupta, M. A., Dip. Lang. and Sukla Mutsuddi, M. A. (Gold Medalist), who are rendering their voluntary services to the best interest of the Institution. It should be also mentioned in this connection that the Institution also provides library facilities to the University Students and Research scholars who often attend the library to consult the necessary books that are available there.

Publication of books as aids to Pali Studies

After Pali had been established as a classical language in the University of Calcutta, a good number of Pali scholars and teachers took active parts in the diffusion of Pali learning in Burma and Bengal through the publication of various books relating to the study of Pali in schools and colleges. Individual scholars in Bengal also stepped forward into the task of translating important Pali works into Bengali to render accessible to the Bangali-speaking students and general readers the rich store-house of knowledge preserved in Pali literature.

Burma had taken the lead in the publication of a few standard works on Pali Grammar which proved to be eminently useful to the students majoring in Pali at the advanced stage of their study.



Mention must be made first of all of Tha Do Oung's 'Grammar of the Pali Language (after Kaccāyana)', vols I-IV, published in 1899 from Akyab. Next we refer to H. H. Tilbe who published two works, viz. (1) Pali Grammar (Students' Pali Series), Rangoon, 1899 and (2) Pali First Lessons, Rangoon, 1902. Above all, reference should be made to the comprehensive work of Charles Duroiselle entitled 'A Practical Grammar of the Pali Language', published in 1906 from Rangoon. Duroiselle also published two other books—I Reader and II Vocabulary (School Pali Series), Rangoon, 1907. We should also refer in this connection to the series of Handbooks on Elementary Pali Grammar (First, Second and Third Pali Courses) for the graduated study of Pali written by James Gray (Lecturer, Rangoon College). He also published in 1905 the First Pali Delectus as a Companion Reader to the Pali course. Thus the Pali Teachers of Rangoon were in the main to lay down the lines of the study of Pali through their works on Pali Grammar which they rightly considered as an indispensable aid to be conversant with the Pali language and literature.

The cause of Pali studies was very much advanced by some of the Pali scholars and teachers in Bengal who, emulating the Rangoon scholars, had similarly brought out a number of works on Pali Grammar for the use of the students studying Pali in schools and colleges. Thus, MM. S. C. Vidyabhushan pioneered the editing of Kaccāyana's Pali Grammar in Devanāgarī script with an English translation in 1901. A reference may also be made to other Bengali works on Pali Grammar, viz. 1) Pali Prakash (1911) by Vidhusekhar Sastri and 2) Pali Pravesh (1937) by Jnanisvar Mahasthavir. The next attempt was made by Prof. Nilmani Chakravarty and Prof. Mahendra Kumar Ghosh to write a Grammar of the Pali language (1925) within a short compass which was primarily designed to meet the requirements of students of all grades studying in schools and colleges.

Prof. Mahendra Kumar Ghosh and Prof. Nirad Ranjan Mutsuddi rendered a great deal of benefit by bringing out diverse books in the form of Pali Grammar and Composition, Pali Courses (prescribed Texts of the University), Aids to these Text books, etc, and thus they popularized to a great extent the study of Pali in Calcutta and Chittagong in course of a few years. Among the books brought out, we may particularly refer to 'Pali Translation and Composition' written by Prof. Mahendra Kumar Ghosh and also to the



work entitled 'Pali Grammar' with its companion 'A Manual of Pali Translation' published in one volume by Prof. Nirad Ranjan Mutsuddi. These two books gained wide popularity in and outside Bengal and several editions of these two books were published in course of a decade.

The University of Calcutta entered on another phase in 1934 for the furtherance of Pali studies with the publication of Pali Selections covering the Textual portions for the Matriculation, I. A., and B. A. Examinations respectively. A special feature of these Pali Selections, edited by the joint efforts of the Departmental Teachers, is that they contain exhaustive Notes at the end illuminating the Texts for the guidance of the teachers and the students alike. Dr. B. C. Law also came forward, out of his own accord, to assist the University in this respect and published under the auspices of the University B. A. (Hons.) Selections (1936) and M. A. Pali Selections (1942) in order to obviate the difficulties lying in the way of the Pali students in procuring the prescribed Texts. The introduction of the Pre-University and the Three-year Degree Courses further necessitated the University to publish the revised and enlarged edition of B. A. Selections and also a fresh edition of the P. U. Selections and this responsible task of editing the two Selections was entrusted to the distinguished Teacher Mr. Sailendra Nath Mitra, who was equally at home in Pali language as well as in Pali literature. He was a close associate of his elder (paternal) cousin Mr. Harinath De, the well-known linguist of global reputation, who induced him to continue the serious study of the Pali language. The B. A. and P. U. Pali Selections, prepared by S. N. Mitra with the assistance of his pupil and colleague Mr. Dwijendra Lal Barua, were published in 1965 and 1972 respectively. The copious Notes prepared by Mr. Mitra and added at the end of the books have greatly increased the utility of the two Selections and they help the students to learn on their own even without the aid of any teacher-guide.

The beginning of translating Pali works into Bengali may be traced as far back as 1887 when Dharmaraj Barua of Chittagong published for the first time his translation work on the Suttanipāta in versified Bengali. After the elapse of more than a decade and a half Charu Chandra Bose, another distinguished writer, brought out for the first time in 1904 an edition of the Dhammapada Text with Sanskrit and Bengali renderings and thus pioneered in introducing



the importance of the study of Pali literature in Bengal. This book gradually gained a wide popularity not only among the Pali students but also readers in general of more or less scholarly aptitude. The merit of the book was highly appreciated by the poet Rabindranath who set about translating the first four Vaggas into Bengali verses, published later on in the journals 'Visvabharati' and 'Jagajyoti'. Besides the great poet, a good number of distinguished scholars and writers vied with one another in bringing out Bengali translations of the work according to their respective choice and method of treatment. The names of such Translators are as follows :—Prof. Satish Chandra Mitra (in verse, 1904) : Hariharananda Aranya (in Sans. verse and Bengali Prose, 1905), Jagadish Mukherji, Headmaster, Barisal B. M. School (in Bengali prose, published in the Beng. Journal Brahmvadi, 1908-1918), Principal Rajani Kanta Guha (Prose translation), Prajnalok Mahasthavir and Bhikshu Anomadarsi (Prose translation, 1953), Silananda Brahmachari (Amritadhara, 1956), Bhikshu Silabhadra (in Prose), Dharmadhar Mahasthavir (in prose, 1954), Ramprasad Sen (in verse, 1973), Sudhir Kumar Gupta (in verse published serially in the Usha), Mihir Gupta (prose translation 1982) and Sasanka Mohan Barua (Kavye Dhammapada, 1958). Next we turn to the distinguished educationist and Pali scholar, Ishan Chandra Ghosh, who essayed a formidable task of translating the Jataka into Bengali and he brought out all the six volumes in course of twelve years (1916-1928). Thus he made the treasures of Pali literature accessible to the masses through his Bengali translation. This monumental work attracted the notice of Rabindranath who penned down a few lines appraising the merit of this work as an outstanding contribution to Bengali literature.

The famous non-canonical Pali work entitled 'Milindapañha' also attracted the notice of certain Pali scholars who engaged themselves in translating this work into Bengali. MM. Vidhusekhar Sastri translated for the first time portions of the book which were published (1315 and 1318) along with the original Pali Text. The complete Bengali translation of the Text was published by the Buddhist Mission at Rangoon in 1935. The latest Bengali translation along with the Text has been recently brought out by Rev. Dharmadhar Mahasthavir. Next we refer to the Pali Patimokkha, the major portion of which, was translated into Bengali by Satish Chandra Vidyabhusan as early as 1904 (Buddhadev in Bengali). Vidhusekhar Sastri published this valuable work with the Bengali translation and notes in 1920. Vamsadvip Mahasthavir also published his Bengali



translation (with the text) in 1937. The Mahāvagga was translated into Bengali by Prajnananda Mahasthavir and published in 1937.

Stray Suttas of the Dīghanikāya were also taken up for translation into Bengali. Thus Brajagopal Neogi (Navavidhan Brahmasamaj), for the first time, translated the Mahāparinibbāna Sutta and published it in 1901. It was later on translated by Mahasthavir Dharmaratna in 1941 and by Sukumar Dutta in 1958. B. M. Barua also translated the Sigālovāda Suttanta and Mahāsati-paṭṭhāna Suttanta (into Bengali) which were published in 1913 and 1914 respectively. The complete translation of the Dīghanikāya by Bhikshu Silabhadra was published in three parts by the Mahabodhi Society. The Mājjhimanikāya I. was rendered into Bengali by B. M. Barua in 1940, while the second volume of the same book was translated by Dharmadhar Mahasthavir and published in 1952.

Among the Texts of the Khuddakanikāya which were rendered into Bengali, we may refer to the following :—Therīgāthā (versified translation by Bejoy Chandra Majumdar and the prose translation by Bhikshu Silabhadra), Theragāthā (by Sthavira published from Rangoon in 1935), Udāna (by Jyotipal Bhikshu, 1930), Buddhavaṃsa by Dharmatilak Sthavir (Rangoon) and the Khuddakapāṭha (by Dharmajyoti Sthavir, 1955) The versified translation of the Cariyāpiṭaka by Dr. Lakshman Chandra Sen Gupta is now ready for the press. Mention should be also made of some other Pali Texts (non-canonical) that were rendered into Bengali by a few scholars, viz. Abhidhammatthasangaha (Birendra Lal Mutsuddi), Subodhālaṅkāra (Aryavamsa Bhikkhu), Vuttodaya (Jnanisvara Mahasthavir), Sāsanavaṃsa (Dharmadhara Mahasthavir), Telaka-ṭhagāthā (Satyapal Bhikkhu), etc.

Sree Bhupendra Nath Mutsuddi, a lawyer by profession, made his debut in the field of Pali studies as the Joint-author (with Prof. N. R. Mutsuddi) of a grammatical work (in Bengali) entitled ' Pali Vyākaraṇa O Anuvād Sikṣā ' which gained sufficient popularity among the students. The latest (16th) revised and enlarged edition of the book was published in 1978 by Chattopadhyaya Brothers with the assistance obtained from Dr. Barindra Nath Barua, who spared no pains to make the book most upto-date and free from blemishes of press-devil as far as possible. At this initial success, the restive mind of the learned Advocate Mutsuddi has dragged him again to



a fresh literary venture in the field of Pali studies, as a result of which he has acquitted himself with credit in the performance of the difficult task of rendering into Pali the well-known 'Naṭir Pūjā' of Rabindranath based on an Avadāna-story. This dramatic composition of Sree Mutsuddi embodied in the form of a booklet has been recently published under the title 'Naṭiyā Pūjā' which is in the words of Prof. B. N. Banerji "a faithful translation of the drama preserving in a large measure the spirit, sentiment and splendour of the Bengali original." The short specimen of Pali drama, a notable contribution of Advocate Mutsuddi to Pali studies, has filled up to some extent the lacuna of drama, so conspicuous by its absence in Pali literature, although traces of dramatic elements are not lacking in the Nikāyas.

The recently published monograph (1972) of Prof. Biswanath Banerji entitled "Pali O Prakrit Sāhityer Itihas" is perhaps the most notable contribution to the historical study of Pali and Prakrit literature in Bengali. The presentation is lucid and interesting and this small book offers a pleasant reading even to the general readers interested in the history of early Indian literature. So far as the history of Pali literature is concerned, the students can also derive some benefit from the study of two other books, recently published, viz. 'Bauddha Sahitya O Siksadiksar Ruparekha' by Dr. A. C. Banerjee (C. U. 1978) and 'Pali Sāhityer Itihās' by Dr. Rabindra Bijoy Barua (Dacca, 1980).

We should also refer to some other Pali works which were translated into Bengali by distinguished Pali scholars, viz. (1) Visuddhimagga, vol. I by Gopaldas Choudhuri and Samana Punnānanda (1923), (2) Jātaka Nidānakathā by Dharmapal (Bhikshu) Mahāsthavir (1958); (3) Telakatāhagāthā by Prajñalok Sthavir (Trans. in verse); (4) Dāṭhāvamsa by Dvārikā Mohan Mutsuddi; and (5) Lokaniti by Prajñalok Sthavir. We may also refer in this context to Sthavir Jnanananda Svāmī who edited the important Pali work 'Abhidhānappadīpikā' in Bengali script (with the equivalent Bengali terms for the Pali words) in 1913. Bhikshu Silabhadra translated the Suttanipāta into Bengali prose which was published in 1958 by the Mahabodhi Society. Rev. Vamsadvipa Mahasthavir also published his Bengali translations of two other important grammatical texts, viz. Bālāvatāra and Kaccāyana's Pali Grammar.



Pali Studies in Schools

With the introduction of Pali as one of the Classical languages at under-graduate stages, arrangements were duly made for teaching Pali in the Rangoon Govt. School and the Baptist Mission School during the last quarter of the past century. Pali classes were also started in 1904 in the Govt. Zilla School, Chittagong, with the assistance of a competent teacher. But no opportunity was available for the study of Pali in the affiliated schools of Calcutta. Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, however, took the initiative, with effect from 1912 in extending facilities for Pali learning in the University itself for the benefit of such students, as might desire to attend the University classes in Pali which were usually held in the afternoon after School hours. About this time Shri Mahendra Gupta (better known as Sri Ma), the Proprietor of the Morton Institute, also opened Pali classes in his school with the aid of Pandit Bhabendra Chandra Sastri, a competent Teacher of Pali. (C. U. Minutes, 1913, pp 1699-1700).

During the years following, the demand for Pali studies became increasingly persistent among the students of Calcutta and the attention of the authorities of a number of schools was directed thereby to the opening of Pali classes in the respective schools with the help of capable teachers. Let us now give in brief outline an account of some of the schools where Pali was introduced gradually in response to the demand of the local students. The list is not exhaustive but only instructive.

Pali was introduced in the Metropolitan, Bowbazar Branch in 1926 and the Institution was fortunate enough in securing the services of some distinguished persons, like, Silananda Brahmachari (an eminent Scholar devoted to Buddhist Studies with a number of books to his credit), Subodh Kumar Mukherjee, M. A. (Gold Medalist), B. T., (who later on joined the Dept. of Education as University Lecturer), Dr. B. Jinananda (who retired as Professor from the Delhi University), Sukumar Sen Gupta (Hony.), Anoma-darshi Bhikshu (who later on joined the B. H. U. as Lecturer in Pali), etc, as Part-time Teacher in succession. It may be stated incidentally that Sree Sailendra Nath Mitra and Sree Sukumar Sen Gupta (formerly University Teachers, Dept. of Pali) were also ex-students of the Bowbazar Branch School. Pali was also introduced in the Khelut Chandra Institution which was abolished in 1942.



The Oriental Training Academy was another School in this locality where Bhupendra Nath Mutsuddi and Satyendra Nath Mutsuddi had served as Pali Teacher successively, before they joined the Alipor Bar. As regards the Collins Institute, it was Mr. Sukumar Sen Gupta who took pains in re-introducing the study of Pali (discontinued previously) in 1943. After Mr. Sen Gupta had left the school, the charge of Pali teaching was taken over by Mr. Satish Chandra Chakravarti, M. A., Suttavisārada, who continued it till his retirement. Pali was taught in the Bowbazar High School by Sri Prabhakar Banerjea and afterwards by Sri Digendra Mohon Mutsuddi who also served as Part-time Pali teacher in the Calcutta Hindu Academy. Among the old Pali boys of the Bowbazar High School, mention may be made of the following who have made their mark in respective spheres —: Dr. Manash Bandhu Talukdar (Presidency Surgeon ; Reader, N. R. S. Medical College and Hospitals), Dr. Binayendra Nath Chaudhury (Head of the Dept. of Pali, Sanskrit College) and Dr. Dipak Kumar Barua (University Professor of Pali). We should also refer to Mr. Jayadratha Chaudhuri, Suttavisārada, who served for a pretty long time as a Pali Teacher in the St. Anthony's Institution and also in the Metropolitan Bowbazar Branch.

• Pali classes were also opened in the Metropolitan Institution (main) and its branch school at Burrabazar in 1932. Accordingly, Sri Nirad Ranjan Mutsuddi was appointed as the Pali Teacher and he continued his services in the two schools in that capacity until he was absorbed as whole-time Professor in the Vidyasagar College. Among the Pali Ex-students of the Metropolitan main school who have distinguished themselves in various fields of activity, we may mention the names of at least three, such as, Saurendranath Mitra (Proprietor, Readers' Corner and Managing Partner, Bodhi Press); Nirmal Chandra Mookherjee (Ex-Judge, Calcutta High Court) and Deb Kumar Das Gupta, B. Com, F. C. A., A. C. S. (Ex-Secretary Cum Chief Accountant of Bird/Hellgers Companies and Ex-Chairman, Eastern Regional Council of the Inst. of Chartered Accountants of India). Arrangement for the study of Pali was also made in the Town School with the assistance of Sri Manada Prasanna Sen, M. A. (Gold Medalist) and after his premature death Sri Madhusudan Roy, M. A. (Gold Medalist) was entrusted with the teaching of Pali which was maintained by him till his retirement. Next, we refer to Sri Surendra Nath Chakravarti who served as Pali Teacher for several years in the Mitra Institution (main), Calcutta.



Besides the above-mentioned Teachers, there were many other persons who served as Pali Teachers in different schools at different periods. Among them mention may be made of the following—: Nirmal Chandra Barua (City School), Prabhash Chandra Majumdar (Brahma Boys School), Harandra Nath Palit (Metropolitan Main), Bhikshu Silabhadra (Kamala High School), Anukul Chandra Barua (Calcutta Training Academy), Barada Kanta Barua, Rajendra Lal Barua, Chiranjib Barua (Maharaja Cossimbazar Polytechnic Institute), Devaprasad Guha (Hony. New Indian School), Pramode Ranjan Singh (Baghbazar High School), Dharmavamsa Bhikshu (Shyampada Institution), Ashim Kumar Mukherji (Ultadanga United High) and Bibhutibhusan Kundu, etc .

The wave of the growing demand for the study of Pali among the students also swept over South Calcutta and as a matter of fact arrangements to this effect were made in some of the local schools by the respective authorities during the thirties and forties of this Century. The Satyabhama Institution for Boys (near Southern Market) was the first school in South Calcutta where an attempt was made in 1935 to provide facilities for the teaching of Pali by the appointment of Pandit Girish Chandra Barua, Suttābhiddhamma-visāraḍa. Vidyavinoda, who joined the school as Part-time Teacher and continued his services in that capacity till 1940. But the school was disaffiliated due to unavoidable circumstances. Sri Prafulla Kumar Sen Gupta, an experienced Teacher serving the Satyabhama Institution since 1932, shouldered the responsibility of continuing Pali studies in the infant Institution 'Southern Academy' which was opened in 1941 in the same locality on the base of the disaffiliated school. Pali was also introduced in the Kalighat Oriental Academy and the Cathedral Mission High School (Bhowanipur) on the initiative of Sri Prafulla Kumar Sen Gupta. Sri Sen Gupta had served the three schools, one after another, as a Pali Teacher for about seven years (1941-1948) before he left Calcutta. Pali classes were opened in the Kalidhan Institution in 1940 and since then Pali had been a very popular subject among the students under the charge of the distinguished persons like, Shyamsundar Banerji, Sukumar Sen Gupta and Sudhir Kumar Gupta who served as Pali Teacher for a few years in consecutive turn. After Sri Sudhir Kumar Gupta (Translator of the Dhammpada) had left the school, the continuity of teaching Pali was maintained by Sri Haripada Sen Gupta, Suttavisāraḍa, an ex-perienced Teacher serving the Institution since its foundation.



Among the old Pali students of this Institution, we may refer in this connection to Dr. Bibhash Chandra Mutsuddi, M. Sc. Ph. D. (Sheffield), who has been marked as a distinguished Scientist in USA. Prof. Nirad Ranjan Mutsuddi, whose energy and keen interest in Pali studies did not abate even during his retired life, resumed his old duties of a School Master in 1954, when he joined the Oriental Academy (Kalighat) and the St. Lawrence High School (Ballygunge) simultaneously to teach Pali in part-time capacity.

The study of Pali had a special attraction for the students throughout the district of Chittagong. There was a distinct demand for it among the students and the guardians. Such demand was gradually growing and the School authorities were alive to the need of promptly providing for it. Attempts had, therefore, been made to introduce the study of Pali in a good number of schools all over the district during the first half of the present Century. Let us now refer to a few of the Pali Teachers who rendered their services to the cause of the progress of Pali learning, viz. Mahendra Lal Barua (Chittagong Govt. High School), Ananta Kumar Barua (Rangamati Govt. High School), Lokendra Nath Barua (Mahamuni Anglo Pali High School), Bepin Chandra Barua (Gachbaria High School), Surendralal Barua (Paraikora Nayanantara Institution), Pramode Barua (Fatikcheri Coronation H. E. School), Nutan Chandra Barua (Rangunia H. E. School), Nilambar Barua (Satbaria H. E. School), Jugal Kisore Barua (Patia A. S. Rahatali High School), Sanjib Chaudhuri (Patia High School), and Pandit Janmejaya Barua of Unainpura (who dedicated his life to the cause of Pali studies and diffusion of Pali knowledge). It may be noted in this connection that Dr. Pran Ranjan Barua, an ex-student of the Pali Dept. had served for a few years as Pali Teacher in the Darjeeling Govt. High School, before he was transferred to the Salt Lake Govt. School (in Calcutta) as a member of the Teaching staff.

From the foregoing survey of the schools in and outside Calcutta, it becomes obvious that the growing demand for the study of Pali among the student community gradually actuated the authorities in introducing this classical language in different schools dispersed in and outside Calcutta. These feeder Institutions also paved the way for its further extension in some of the private Colleges within the jurisdiction of the University. Over and above the three colleges and the University itself where suitable provisions had already been made for undergraduate studies in Pali during the



first two decades of this century, Pali classes were also started with courses for I. A. and B. A. (Pass) standards in a few more Calcutta and Mofussil colleges in course of the next three decades. Although at the early period the number of Pali students in colleges was very small, the roll strength gradually increased to a considerable extent in course of succeeding years. Encouraged by the growing popularity of the subject and the numerical strength of the students, the authorities of the Vidyasagar College applied for affiliation in Pali Honours which was granted in due time. The third year Honours class in Pali was thereupon opened from the beginning of the session 1934-1935.

The schools made most remarkable progress from the point of view of their numerical strength of the Pali students. The number of students gradually rose to over two thousand in the thirties of this century. Consequently, the number of Examiners was also increased with the corresponding increase in the number of candidates for the Matriculation Examination. According to the University Records (C. U. Cal. 1938 p. 115 ; University Question Papers p. 64 1939), the following persons were appointed as Examiners to look after the Pali answer-scripts of the candidates appearing at the Matriculation Examinations held in 1938 and 1939 respectively :— Mr. Sailendra Nath Mitra (Head-Examiner) ; Mr. Dwijendrafal Barua ; Prof. Nirmal Chandra Barua ; Mr. Gokuldas De ; Mr. Mahendra Kumar Ghosh ; Prof. Lalit Kumar Barua ; Prof. Debabrata Chakravorti ; and Mr. Habibur Rahaman Khondkar, M. A., (a bona-fide Pali Ex-student of the City College and also an alumnus of the Pali Dept. C. U.)

This steady progress of Pali studies with the march of time, both in schools and colleges, was chiefly due to the persistent efforts, enterprise and self-sacrifice of a good number of Teachers who devoted themselves to the cause of the 'Advancement of Learning', the ideal motto of this University. A few young scholars volunteered to render honorary services to the cause of Pali studies in schools and colleges. Some served with a token honorarium and some came forward to serve the Institutions without any emolument therefrom. Next we mention that a band of Teachers used to serve two schools one after another (with a small pittance in each case) in part-time capacities and they moved on their daily rounds from one school to another with full justice to their dual duties that were



to be discharged to the best interest and satisfaction of the students concerned. The novel method of teaching adopted by some of the enthusiastic teachers and their sincerity as well as growing reputation sometimes acted as load-stones to attract a few good students and even the flagging attention of some young readers to the study of Pali with keen interest and love for the subject. Thus they raised the tone of the schools. A cordial rapport was also established thereby between the teacher and the taught. In order to popularize the study of Pali in schools and colleges some well-known teachers and young scholars like, Mahendra Ghosh, N. R. Mutsuddi, Manada Prasanna Sen, Paresh Chandra De, etc., spared no pains and expenses in bringing out a number of, Help books and Guide-books (without calculating on their sale-proceeds) which benefited the students in deriving pleasure and ease in the course of their reading the prescribed Text books for University examinations. Besides the Pali Teachers, Heads of Schools and other senior Teachers very often encouraged such students to take up Pali in lieu of Sanskrit, as it was deemed expedient for them to learn the language within a comparatively short period. The Rangoon Teachers did a lot in establishing the study of Pali in some of the local Institutions during the last quarter of the past century. But Pali, which had practically become obsolete on the Indian soil, was revived in Bengal at the turn of the present century. The cause of Pali studies was very much advanced in Bengal within the first half of this century by the exertion of incredible energy and untiring labour of the Teachers who always felt an honest pride in adopting this noble profession discarding the visions of self, power and position.

Let us now refer to a few of the Pali Ex-students of this University who served as efficient Headmasters in different schools in and outside Calcutta. It is encouraging to note in this connection that Dr. Benimadhab Barua also served as Headmaster in a local school (Chittagong) for a few months during the early days of his career. Sri Prafulla Kumar Sen Gupta, M. A., Suttavisāra, an experienced Pali Teacher joined the Remanda High School, Sambalpur, as its Headmaster in 1948 and served the Institution for a number of years most efficiently. Later on, he was appointed as a Pali Teacher in the Kamala High School where he continued his services in that capacity till his death in 1969. Sri Suhash Chandra Mitra, an M. A. in History (with Honours in Pali) served as an efficient Headmaster in the Mitra Institution (main) for a few years in the forties of this century. But the cruel death snatched away



this energetic Headmaster from the favourite line of his pursuit in the prime of his life. The late Jitendra Nath Banerjee, M. A., served as Headmaster for many years in the Andrews H. S. School (Dhakuria) where he introduced Pali during the tenure of his services. He participated in the work of Pali teaching with the greatest devotion, so long he remained as the Head of the Institution. Next we refer to Sri Rabindra Nath Chatterjee, M. A., B. T., another Pali alumnus of the University, who for many years served the cause of education as a member of the Teaching staff in the Metropolitan Institution, Bowbazar Branch. He retired from this school, with due credit and reputation, as a successful Headmaster in 1978. Sri Chatterjee is an ardent lover of Pali. Previously he used to take keen interest in the study of this increasingly important branch of knowledge.

We now turn to a few more alumni of the Department who are now actively engaged as Heads in some of the Institutions of Calcutta and Mofussil areas. Sri Amal Kumar Banerjee, M. A., B. T., a distinguished alumnus of the University, has been serving as Headmaster in the Rani Rashmani High School, Calcutta, since the early fifties of this century. During the preceding years, he regularly instructed the Pali students even with a heavy work-load on his shoulders. Sri Prabhakar Banerjee and Sri Paresh Chandra De, M. A., (Gold Medalist) also served for a few years as Pali Teachers in this school out of fascination for the subject and the teaching profession. Sri Anil Sinha, M. A., another ex-student of the Pali Department, is also serving at present as a competent Head-master in the Nandannagar High School, Agartala.

Among the Pali alumnae who have gladly accepted services in the education Department, mention may be made of the following who are now serving as Heads in some of the schools in Calcutta. Mrs. Anjali Barua, M. A., B. Ed., formerly a Research Scholar in the Department of Pali, has been serving as the Headmistress of the Metropolitan Institution for Girls, Bowbazar, since 1969 with whole-hearted devotion to the cause of the furtherance of female education in this locality. Miss Santi Banerjee, M. A., another Pali ex-student, is serving at present as Head-mistress in the Nagendra Nath Vidyamandir for Girls (Junior High School) to the best of her capacity in administrative affairs. Miss Sumedha Mutsuddi, M. A., B. T., a bona-fide Pali alumna of the Manindra Chandra College, has been also serving as an efficient Head-mistress in a local Free Primary School (under the Corporation of Calcutta) since 1963.



Teachers and Alumni participating in Conferences and Seminars.

Prof. Benimadhab Barua was the first teacher of the Pali Department who presided over the Ancient Indian Section of the Indian History Congress held at Annamalainagar in December 1945. Previously to this he crossed over to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) accompanied by his pupil Sri Satadal Kumar Kar, M. A. on a joint invitation arranged by the Dona Alpina Ratnayake Trust and the Buddhist Brotherhood of the University of Ceylon and delivered a series of lectures on different aspects of Buddhism at Colombo in March 1944. He also participated at a symposium of the Indian Philosophical Congress held at Delhi (1946) where he delivered a lecture on the Role of Buddhism in Indian Life and thought.

Prof. Nalinaksha Dutt presided over the Pali and Buddhism section of the All-India Oriental Conference held at Darbhanga in 1948. He actively participated in the International Symposium held at New Delhi in November 1956 on the occasion of the Buddha Jayanti Celebration. Prof. N. Dutt (then an M. A.) also visited Russia in 1963, on an invitation by the Academy of Sciences in the USSR, to deliver a course of lectures on Buddhism.

Prof. Anukul Chandra Banerji was the second Teacher of the Department to preside over the Pali and Buddhism section of the Oriental Conference at its Varanasi session in 1968. Sree Prabhash Chandra Majumdar was the next member of the Teaching Staff who presided over the Pali and Buddhism section of the All India Oriental Conference held at Ujjayini.

It should be noted in this connection that Prof. Biswanath Banerjee (Visvabharati) presided over the Pali and Buddhism Section of the All India Oriental Conference at its Silver Jubilee Session held in Jadavpur University Campus in October 1969. Prof. Madhusudan Mallik (Visvabharati) also presided over the Iranian Section of the Oriental Conference at its Poona session in 1978.

Sri Devaprasad Guha, another alumnus, was elected as the President of the Pali and Buddhism Section of the Oriental Conference for its Gauhati session in 1965. Prof. Guha further



presided over the following sections of the Oriental Conference held at different places according to the order of time—(i) Pali and Buddhism, Kurukshetra, 1974; (ii) South-east Asian Studies, Dharwar, 1976; and (iii) Technical Sciences and Fine Arts, Santiniketan (Visvabharati), 1980. Ven. Dharmadhar Mahasthvir attended (as a representative of, the Bengal Buddhist Association) the Sixth Synod (Saṅgāyana) held in Burma during 1954-55. He was also deputed by the Mahabodhi Society (Calcutta) to attend the World Buddhist Monks' Conference held in Sri-Lanka in 1968. Ven. Dharmapal (Bhikshu) Mahasthavir participated in several International Buddhist Conferences (World Fellowship of Buddhists), held in Thailand (1966), Sri-Lanka (1972), in Japan (1978) and also at Saigon (World Buddhist Sangha Council) in 1969. He also visited Mongolia and the USSR as the Leader of the Indian Buddhist Delegation in 1981.

Dr. Heramba Nath Chatterjee, Sastri, visited different quarters of the Globe on different occasions in various capacities, sometimes as a Visiting Professor and sometimes as one of the participants in Conferences. In 1965-66 he was the Visiting Professor at the University of Budapest (under Indo-Hungarian Cultural Exchange Programme) and he was for sometime a Lecturer at the University of Oxford. He participated in the World Sanskrit Conference at Paris as the representative of the Government of India in 1978-79. He attended the International Pali Conference held in 1976 at Copenhagen, as the only delegate from India. He was also the Visiting Professor in Japan (under J. S. P. S. Scheme) in 1978-79.

Distinguished Pali Alumni of the Colleges.

The Presidency College in the past attracted many good students in the Pali Honours course and secured very satisfactory results in the University examinations. The first batch of students, Rebatiroman Barua and Chandrasekhar Sen, who secured Honours in Pali in 1909 under the New Regulation, belonged to the Presidency College. Rebatiroman Barua (also an M. A. in Pali, 1913) entered the Government Service and gradually held the post of Deputy Magistrate in British Bengal. While Chandrasekhar Sen became one of the leading Advocates in Calcutta. Between 1908-1958 the Presidency College produced eleven Graduates with First Class Honours in Pali, of whom all but one stood First in order of merit. The names of these First Class Honours (Pali) alumni are as follows:—1910-Sailendra Nath Mitra; 1927—Sudhindra Nath Chakravarti (Eshan



Scholar); 1928—Jitendra Kumar Rakshit; 1929—Jnanprakas Ghosh; 1932—Birinch Kumar Barua; 1938—Debaprasad Guha; 1940—Girijibhushan Banerji ; 1941—Nirmal Chandra Mukherji and Jitendra Nath Sanyal (2nd in order of merit) ; 1950—Binayendra Nath Chaudhuri; 1958—Dipak Kumar Barua. A few words may be further added regarding two of the above-mentioned old students in this connection. After passing the Entrance Examination in the first division in 1905 from the Metropolitan Institution (Bowbazar Branch), Sailendra Nath Mitra prosecuted his studies in the Presidency College, where he commenced the study of Pali in the B. A. class. Besides securing high marks in Pali Honours, Sailendranath was also awarded the Bankim Chandra Gold Medal for having stood First in Bengali Vernacular at the B. A. Examination. He repeated his equal success in 1912 when he obtained the M. A. degree in Pali with the topmost position in class I. He was the first Indian to be appointed as Professor of Pali in Burma. He started his career in the education line as a member of the Teaching Staff in the Baptist (Judson) College at Rangoon in 1914. Soon afterwards Sir Asutosh invited him to join the University as Lecturer in Pali in 1917 and he served his Alma Mater in different capacities till his final retirement in 1955. Jnanprakas Ghosh, a talented ex-student of the Collins Institute and the Presidency College, maintained throughout a uniformly good academic career. In his early days he proved himself to be a curious combination of a musician, a painter, a sportsman and a good bona-fide student of Pali. He crossed the precincts of the Presidency College and entered the portals of Asutosh Building for further studies in the M. A. classes in Pali with Group C. He attended the full courses of lectures; but untoward circumstances mainly due to eye-trouble prevented him from appearing at the M. A. Examination. Thus from the academic field of Pali studies he shifted to the arena of Music, his favourite line of pursuit. He is now a distinguished figure in the World of Music both as a Vocalist and as an Instrumentalist. Next we refer to a few more prominent Pali Honours Graduates of the College who are :—Mahendra Kumar Ghosh (who was a distinguished Lawyer and Instructor in Pali, C. U.); Bimala Charan Law (one of the Outstanding Indologists and Pali Scholar); Sultan Mahammad; Debapriya Walisingha; Anil Chandra Pal (Reader and Head of the Dept. of Archaeology, C. U.), Sadhan Kamal Chaudhuri (Officer-in-charge, Karaya Police Station, Calcutta). Apurbaranjan Barua was the first Honours student of the Chittagong College who obtained Honours in Pali in 1912 and he took his M. A. degree in Pali 1914. He joined the Government service and later on



became Deputy Magistrate in British Bengal. He was followed by Nalinaksha Datta, the most distinguished Pali alumnus of the College who graduated with Honours in Pali (in 1913), standing first in order of merit. After passing the Entrance Examination in 1908 from the Chittagong Municipal School, he joined the Chittagong College as a student where he was initiated into Pali studies by his revered Teacher Aggamahapandita Dhammavamsa Mahathera, who played a great role in shaping his future academic career. Nalinaksha obtained the M. A. degree in Pali in 1915 with the topmost position in class I and the B. L. degree in 1916. He began his career as a College Teacher in the Baptist (Judson) College at Rangoon and soon afterwards he was appointed by Sir Asutosh as Lecturer in the University of Calcutta, where he gradually became Professor and Head of the Department of Pali. He confined himself exclusively to the study and research in various aspects of Buddhism and established himself as a scholar of the front rank in the field of Buddhist studies. His outstanding contributions to Buddhist learning brought him many academic laurels and distinctions. Two students from the Chittagong College secured First class Honours in Pali during the period 1912-1946. Sarajbhushan Barua stood First in class I in 1936 and Hemendralal Barua stood, second in the First class in 1940. Among the successful Pali Honours Students of the College, who distinguished themselves in the education line, mention may be made of Dwijendra Lal Barua (Retired Reader, Calcutta University), Tejendralal Barua (Ex-District Inspector of Schools) and Ranadhir Barua (Ex-Assistant Professor, and Ex-Chairman, Deptt. of Oriental Languages, Chittagong University). Between 1910 and 1920, Honours degree in Pali was conferred on 24 students of the Rangoon Govt. College, of whom 6 students were placed in the First Class. The names of these, first class Honours Graduates in Pali (with their respective positions indicated by the numerical figure in the bracket) are stated thus :— 1910—Maung Thein Maung (2) ; 1915—Maung Hla (2) and Chit Maung (3) ; 1916—Maung Gali I ; (1) ; 1919—Ba kya (2) ; 1920—Debabrata Chakravarti (1).

The following Ex-students of the Vidyasagar College secured first class Honours in Pali during the period 1919-1952 :—1919 Charandas Chatterji (1) ; 1930 Ajay Kumar Basu (1) ; 1937 Shyam-sundar Banerji (2) ; 1939 Pramodranjan Barua (1) and Ganesh Chandra Chakravarti (2) ; 1945 Paresh Chandra De (1). Among other Graduates of the College with Honours in Pali, who later on



distinguished themselves in their respective fields of activity, mention may be made of a few in this connection—P. P. Bodhisatta Saran Barua (Retd. Deputy Magistrate), Kamal Kriahna Palit (an eminent Advocate), Sukumar Sen Gupta (Ex-Reader, Deptt. of Pali, C. U.), Bagisbandhu Mutsuddi (Ex-Journalist, who also held a responsible post under the Director Public Vehicles Department), Amal Kumar Banerji (Headmaster). The Maharaja Manindra Chandra College had once made a name as a good centre of Pali studies due to its satisfactory results at the University examinations. We here refer to the recipients of 'N. N. Law Gold Medal' for having secured the highest number of marks in Pali from this College at the Intermediate examinations :—Sudhirranjan Ray ; Sunil Kumar Biswas ; Manotosh Karmakar ; and Swadesh Kamal Chaudhuri. Some of the Pali ex-students of this College, who have distinguished themselves in the field of education, include Smt. Devirani Das, M. A. and Surhit Kumar De, M. A., Ph. D. Dr. Surhit Kumar De, a partial student (who was allowed to attend B. A. Pass classes in Pali) of the Manindra Chandra College, is now a reputed Professor of Mathematics in the Charleston University, Illinois (in the USA).

The Berhampore Krishnath College could boast of producing two illustrious graduates in 1911. They were Kavisekhara Kalidas Ray and the Great Indologist Benimadhab Barua. Benimadhab, after passing the Entrance (1906) and the F. A. (1908) Examinations from the Chittagong School and College respectively, joined the Scottish Church College as a student of the B. A. Class, and he also attended the Pali classes (with his class-fellow Sailendranath Mitra) at the Presidency College. But afterwards he graduated from the Berhampore College with Honours in Pali standing first in order of merit and in 1913 he obtained the M. A. degree in Pali with the topmost position in Class I. Later on, he capped his brilliant academic career with the D. Litt. degree of the London University, a distinction which had been gained by no Indian before. Sir Asutosh rightly offered the post of a Lecturer in Pali to such a devoted scholar of outstanding merit as Dr. Benimadhab Barua who could smilingly spurn any other highly lucrative offer simply for the cause of higher studies and research in this premier University. He gladly joined the Department of Pali in 1917 as a member of the teaching staff and gradually rose to the position of University Professor of Pali. He passed all his days in a serene atmosphere of scholarly pursuits and served with pre-eminent success as Professor of Pali in the University. The Vidyālañkāra Parivena of Śrī Lañkā



conferred on him the honorary diploma of 'Tipitakācariya' in 1944 in recognition of his invaluable contributions to Pali and Oriental studies. Gokuldas De received decent education at Rangoon under the constant care and guardianship of his elder brother Prof. Krishna-prasad De (a distinguished Mathematician of an earlier generation) who was in charge of Mathematics in the Rangoon Govt. College. Gokuldas passed the Entrance examination in 1908 from the Rangoon School and, continued his studies further in the Rangoon College where he became a favourite student of his revered and beloved Teacher Charles Duroiselle. But ultimately he graduated from the Ripon College in 1915 with Honours in Pali, standing first in class I. In 1917 he secured the first position in class I at the M. A. Examination in Pali. He joined the University as Lecturer in Pali in 1918 and retired in August 1955. Prabhash Chandra Majumdar, who maintained throughout uniformly good results at the University Examinations, was allowed to take up Honours in Pali under the guidance of Prof. Debabrata Chakravarty, and he also stood first in class I at the Pali Honours examination in 1937 from the City College. He stood second in class I at the M. A. Examination in Pali in 1939. After serving as Professor of Pali in the Manindra Chandra College for a few years he joined the University of Calcutta as Lecturer in Pali and served his Alma Mater in different capacities till his death in October 1974. The Sanskrit College can take credit, with some amount of justifiable pride, for having produced a good number of Graduates who secured First class Honours in Pali between 1965 and 1983. The names of these alumni (placed in Class I) are, as follows :— Sukla Mutsuddi, Dilip Biswas, Priyatosh Barua, Maitreoi Roy, Lipika Basu, Kalpana Mondal, Gauri Bhattacharyya, Sisir Kumar Mitra, Mani Kuntala Halder, Sikha Ghosh, Krishnakali Dutta, Anita Ghosh, Rita Majumdar, Dipti Barua, Sankari Karmakar, Alokā Tapaswi, Subhra Barua, Rita Chatterji, Anusri Roy, Sukriti Ghosh, Kakali Roy, Dilip Chakravarty, Aditirina De, Santa Ghost, etc.

Besides the distinguished Pali alumni of our University who have been mentioned previously, there are many others who have become prominent afterwards in their respective fields of activity. Among these old successful Pali alumni of the University, mention may be made of the following :— Sri Sudhindra Nath Majumdar, M. A. (Senior Manager, National Insurance Company Ltd.); Sri Sanat Kumar De, M. A., Dip. Lib. (Assistant Librarian, J. B. Roy Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital); Sri Sadhan Kumar Mukherji, M. A. Dip. Lib. (Senior Librarian, Govt. Sanskrit College,



Sri Shyam Sunder Swaika, M. A. (President, Calcutta Chamber of Commerce, formerly a Notary Public and a Justice of Peace); Sri Krishnakali Dutta, M. A., LL. B. (an eminent Lawyer); Sri Debabrata Chakravarty, M. A. (Gold Medalist), a distinguished Homeopathic Practitioner, Shillong, Meghalaya; Sri Ramranjan Bhattacharya, M. A., (District Librarian, Tamluk, Midnapur). Among the Pali alumni of the University, we may mention the following distinguished scholars who served as administrative Heads in some Colleges in and outside Calcutta :—M. M. Dr. Satis Chandra Vidya-bhushan (Principal, Sanskrit College, 1910-1920); Dr. Sadananda Bhaduri (Principal, Sanskrit College 1948-54); Dr. Satchidananda Dhar (Formerly Principal, Ramkrishna Mahavidyalaya, Tripura and Jangipur College, Murshidabad); Dr. Rabindra Nath Das (Formerly Principal, Ramthakur College, Agartala); Dr. Syamsundar Banerjee (Sometime Principal, Uttarpara Raja Pearymohan College); Mr. Pramoderanjan Barua, M. A. (Cal.), M. A. (Lond), Retired Principal, Chittagong Govt. College, Bangladesh; Dr. Heramba Nath Chatterjee (sometime Principal, Sanskrit College). We may further note in this connection that Prof. Anukul Chandra Banerjee, an alumnus of the Department, was appointed in 1983 as the Director of the Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology and Buddhist Studies (Gangtok), after he had retired from the University.

Role of Women in Pali Studies

Let us just cast a glance over the role of women in Pali studies during the past fifty years. At the early stage, the girl students were not at all interested in the study of Pali for the University examinations. Some of them were not even acquainted with the term Pali. A nominal number of private or regular students (with the permission of the University) appeared from time to time at different under graduate examinations. It was in the year 1934 that a lady student was admitted into the B. A. Third year class with Honours in Pali in the Vidyasagar College. It is worthy of mention that Usharani Dasgupta was the first lady student of the University of Calcutta who graduated with Honours in Pali in 1936 from the Vidyasagar College. The Manindra Chandra College also extended facilities for Pali studies (up to the B. A. Pass standard) to the girl students. It may be mentioned incidentally that Gouri Ganguly, a girl student of the Bethune College, was awarded in 1952 the N. N. Law Medal for



having obtained the highest number of marks in Pali at the Intermediate examination. Next we refer to the Sanskrit College which offered all facilities for the study of Pali to the girl students, after co-education had been introduced in the College. Gradually, as years rolled on, the number of lady students in Pali Pass and Honours classes increased to a considerable extent. The College produced a good number of lady graduates with Honours in Pali, many of whom were placed in the First class even with the topmost position in some years. One spark of glory on the part of the Sanskrit College is to be found in the result displayed by a Pali lady student at the University Honours examination of the recent past. Smt. Aditirina De was awarded the Kshanika Scholarship for having secured the highest number of marks in the First class among all the successful Lady candidates appearing at the B. A. Honours examination held in 1982.

Let us now turn our attention to the role of women in Post Graduate study and research in Pali. Being inspired and encouraged by Mr. Nalininath Das Gupta and Prof. B. M. Barua, Sudhamayi Sen Gupta, an M. A. in Ancient Indian History and Culture, took with avidity to the study of Pali prescribed for the M. A. Course as a student of the Pali Department. It is noteworthy that Sudhamayi Sen Gupta is the first Indian woman who obtained the M. A. degree in Pali (with the topmost position in Class I) from an Indian University (C. U.) in 1949. She has devoted herself to the cause of Buddhist studies as a University teacher and a life-long scholar. Her doctoral Thesis entitled "Buddhism in the Classical Age" has been published recently. Subsequently the following candidates were admitted to the M. A. degree in Pali as University students:—Tapati Das Gupta (1952), Pratibha Chakravarti (1955) and Jayanti Das Gupta (1962). We should also mention in this connection that Kshanika Saha (an M. A. in AIHC) and Asha Das (an M. A. in Bengali), who enrolled themselves as students of the Pali Department, also obtained the M. A. degree in Pali in 1958 and 1959 respectively. During the next two decades Pali became a very popular subject among women seeking admission in the Post-Graduate classes. By 1982 the number of the lady students in the Pali M. A. classes grew to a respectable figure due to the increasing popularity of the subject. The Department also attracted a good number of women to the field of research and some of them attained success in their respective line of research. Asha Das, who has dedicated her life to the cause of furtherance of Pali and Buddhist studies, is the first alumna of the Department to be awarded the Ph. D. degree by Calcutta



University in 1966 on her Thesis entitled "Bāṅglā Sāhitye Bauddha Dharma O Saṁskṛiti". She also set the first example of winning the Griffith Memorial Prize (1969) among the alumnae of the Department. The Ph. D. Degree was also conferred by Calcutta University on the following lady students of the Pali Department on their respective Thesis :—Kshanika Saha (1967, on the Thesis entitled "Buddhism and Buddhist Literature in Central Asia, published in 1970) ; Manorama Chanda (Thesis "Studies on the Saddharmapundarika Sutra) ; Gayatri Das Gupta (Mrs. Sen Majumdar), 1977, who published her Thesis "Buddhism in Ancient Bengal" in 1983 ; Bela Bhattacharya (1979, Thesis "Studies in the Fundamental Principles of Buddhism") ; Manikuntala Halder (Mrs. De), 1984 (Thesis, "A critical Study on the Sasanavamsa"). It should be further noted that Sm. Arunima Sinha is the first lady student to have obtained the first M. Phil. degree (1984) in Pali from the University of Calcutta.

Activities of the Department (January 1984—July 1986)

Dr. Asha Das was appointed Head of the Department for two years with effect from January 1984. The Department continued to progress with various activities in the field of teaching and research during the period under review. Dr. Syamsundar Banerjee retired in March 1984 after serving the Department as Part-time Lecturer for more than 38 years. On the retirement of Dr. S. Banerjee, Dr. Herambanath Chatterjee, Professor of Pali, Sanskrit College was appointed to this vacant post as salaried Part-time Lecturer with effect from April 1985. The M. A. and M. Phil classes in Pali are being held as usual. The number of M. Phil. students shows a marked tendency to increase. Many a lady student has been taking keen interest in the M. Phil. course bearing upon research training since its introduction in the Department in 1983. The University recently introduced the Pre-M. A. course catering to the needs of Post-Graduates to be eligible for admission to the M. A. course. Arrangements were first made in the Department to hold Pre-M. A. class with effect from September 1984 owing to the initiative and effective steps taken by Dr. Asha Das in seeking permission from the University authorities to open the Pre-M. A. class in Pali for the benefit of the pass students. Since then a number of Graduates



(with Pali) from the Agartala Ramthakur College and also some local colleges (with an allied subject) have been resorting to this course of study in order to qualify themselves properly for having further admission to the M. A. class in Pali. Dr. Asha Das is thoroughly awake to the probable inconveniences of the students in procuring some of the Text-books that have long been out of print. She has, therefore, spared no pains to take effective steps in preparing Xerox copies of many out of print and rare publications by utilising the contingency fund (allocated to this Department) with the permission of the University authorities. The students are being immensely benefited by consulting or copying the required texts from these bound Xerox copies preserved in the students Seminar Library committed to the charge of Dr. Bela Bhattacharyya, M. A., M. Ed., Ph. D., a member of the teaching staff. The unique Seminar Library has been built up with the help of fund contributed solely by the students and alumni of the Department. Two volumes of the research periodical entitled "Journal of the Department of Pali", recently published, have already received wide appreciation from the scholarly world and various academic institutions. The forthcoming third issue of the Journal is now ready for the press. Dr. Sukumar Sen Gupta and Dr. Asha Das are continuing their services as usual in the Language Department (evening) as Honorary Teachers of Pali. The first batch of students, Debarchana Mitra and Milan Kanti Choudhuri, appearing at the Diploma examination in Pali, 1985, were placed in the First class. Debarchana Mitra (Mrs. Sarkar), Eshan Scholar, M.A., a research scholar in the Department of Sanskrit, topped the list, having secured very high marks in each of the papers.

Besides pursuing their own research studies and investigations, the Teachers of the Department have been supervising the research work of the scholars preparing their Thesis for the Ph. D. degree. The M. Phil students are also being immensely benefited by the members of the teaching staff, while preparing their dissertations for the M. Phil. course. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the following five scholars were awarded the Ph. D. degree of this University within a comparatively brief space of three years only—: 1983—1) Hemendu Bikash Barua (subject: "Buddhism and Buddhists of West Bengal" in Bengali under the supervision of Dr. Kanailal Hazra); 1984—2) Manikuntala Haldar (Mrs. De) (subject: "A critical study on the Sāsanavamsa", under the supervision of Prof. A. C. Banerjee); 1985—3) Pranab Kumar Barua (subject: Pālottar yuge Bāṅglādeśe Bauddha-Saṁskṛiti", under the supervision of Dr. Asha



Das); 4) Sunanda Barua (subject : 'Bāṅglā Sāhitye Bauddha Upākhyān, ; Supervisor Dr. Sukumar Sen Gupta); 5) Pulin Behari Barua ('Monastic Libraries in Ancient India', under the supervision of Dr. Sukumar Sen Gupta). The UGC has given distinct encouragement to the project, undertaken by the Department, on the compilation of the "Encyclopaedia of Buddhism" in Bengali by sanctioning a lump grant of Rs. 10,000 for this work. Accordingly the teachers of the Department have displayed their first enthusiasm of progress in this regard by preparing articles for the forthcoming first volume within a very short span of time during this session. The press copy of the volume is being made ready for publication.

The teaching staff consists of one Professor, two Readers, two Lecturers (one such post lying vacant), and one salaried Part-time Lecturer. The Department is partially assisted in the conduct of teaching by some Teachers of the allied Departments and also the Pali Teachers of the Sanskrit College. The UGC has recently sanctioned two posts, one for Readership and another for Lectureship. The vacant posts have been advertised. These posts, when filled up, will justify the cause of furthering Pali studies in the Department which is running at present three courses, viz. Pre-M. A., M. A. and M. Phil, apart from the Ph. D. course. The Department now consists of the following Teachers :—Prof. Dipak Kumar Barua ; Dr. Kanai Lal Hazra (Reader) ; Dr. Asha Das (Reader) ; Dr. Bela Bhattacharyya ; Dr. Heramba Nath Chatterjee ; Prof. Chinmay Datta ; Dr. Prabodh Narayan Singh ; Dr. Binayendra Nath Chandhury ; Dr. Anil Chandra Pal ; Dr. Sukomal Chaudhury ; Dr. Hrishikesh Guha ; Sri Prabal Kumar Sen ; Rev. Dharmapal Bhikshu (Mahasthavir) ; Dr. Mrinal Kanti Ganguli ; Dr. Kshanika Saha ; and Dr. Sadhan Chandra Sarkar.

Prof. Dipak Kumar Barua has been re-appointed as Head of the Department with effect from February 1986. It is gratifying to note further that Prof. D. K. Barua was nominated by the Council of the Pali Text Society, London, as the Overseas Representative of the P. T. S. in India during the last quarter of 1985.

We should also record the happy news that Anjali Gupta (Mrs. Roy) has been recently awarded by the University of Calcutta the degree of Doctor of Philosophy on her thesis entitled "Bhāratatvavidhācārya Benimadhab", submitted under the supervisor of Dr. Asha Das. Lastly, we add a few words more regarding a few published works of some of the Departmental Teachers and ex-



students of the University. Dr. Kanai Lal Hazra :— 1) The Ādi—Buddha (B. R. Publishing Corporation, Delhi, 1986) and (2) The Buddhist Annals and Chronicles of South-East Asia (Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1986).

Dr. Kshanika Saha :— Indian Medical Text in Central Asia (Bower Manuscript, Navanitaka), published by Firma KLM Private Ltd., Calcutta, 1985.

It may be further noted that Dr. Rabindra Nath Basu, formerly a Research Scholar in the Department, published his thesis entitled "A critical Study of the Milindapañha" in 1978 (Firma KLM, Calcutta). Sri Subhuti Ranjan Barua, a Pali scholar and an alumnus of the University, published a few years ago his versified Translation (in Bengali) of the Dhammapada. The Dhammapada translated into Bengali by Sri Nirmal Chandra Barua has also been published very recently.

List of the First Class M. A.s in Pali (1973-1985 only)

1973—Sikha Ghosh, Krishnakali Dutta ; 1974—Mrs. Uma Ray Nath ; 1975—Sagarika Bhaduri ; 1976—Tapati Sen Gupta, Tapasi Das, Mitali Bose, Nina Basu ; 1977—Subhra Basu, Dipti Barua, Sveta Ghosh ; 1978—Namita Dutta Roy, Pritilata Sen Gupta (Mrs. Mandal), Bandana Mukherji, Mina Bhattacharya ; 1979—Sankari Karmakar, Alaka Tapaswi, Swapna Routh ; 1980—Subhra Barua, Sumita Sen Gupta ; 1981—Chittaranjan Patra, Lakshmisri Chakravartty, Sujata Bhattacharya, Manasi Banerjee, Banani Sarkar, Arunima Sinha ; 1983—Kalyanatissa walpola, Sukriti Ghosh ; 1984—Aditirina De ; 1985—Jayanti Chatterjee.



Succession List of Professors and Heads of the Department

First University Lecturer in Pali

Dharmananda Kosambi

(Lecturer-in-charge of Post-graduate Studies in Pali, 1907-1909)

Satischandra Vidyabhushan

(Lecturer in-charge, July 1910-June 1917)

University Professor of Pali

Beni Madhab Barua

Distinction of University
Professor. (19th Dec. 1925)
University Professor of Pali
(1930 – March 1948)

Nalinaksha Dutta

(Dec. 1949—November 1985)

Anukul Chandra Banerjee
(1959—December 1975)

Dipak Kumar Barua

(March 1978.....)

Head of the Department

Satischandra Vidvabhushan

(July 1917—March 1920)

Benimadhab Barua

(April 1920 – March 1948)

Nalinaksha Dutta

(1948—November 1958)

Anukul Chandra Banerjee

(Dec. 1958—Dec. 1975)

Sukumar Sen Gupta

(January 1976—June 1976)

Dipak Kumar Barua

(July 1976—Dec. 1981)

Kanai Lal Hazra

(January 1982—Dec. 1983)

Asha Das

(January 1984—Dec. 1985)

Dipak Kumar Barua

(Reappointed Head of the
Department in February 1986)



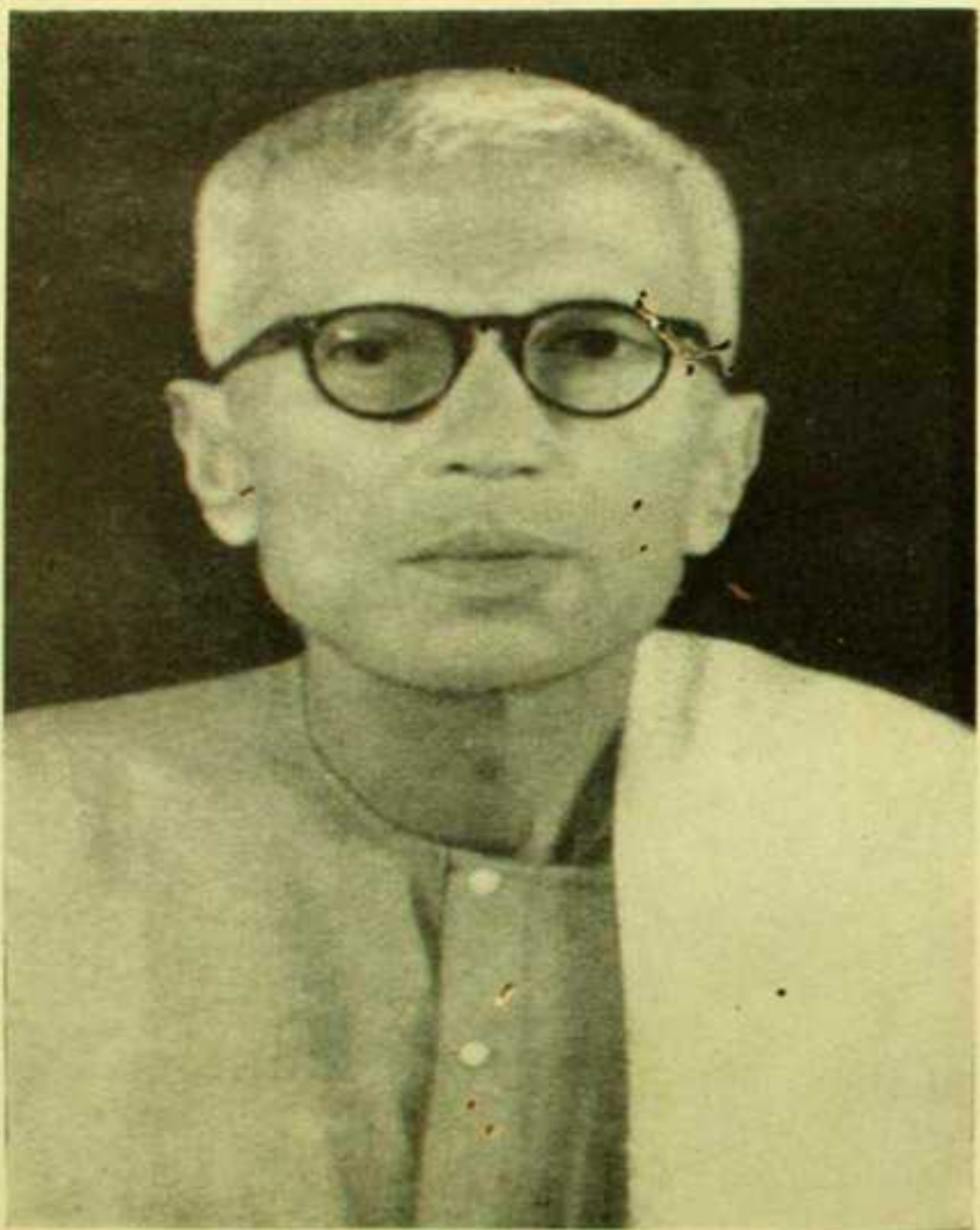
Benimadhab Barua
(1888—1948)



Sailendra Nath Mitra
(1889—1958)



Gokuldas De
(1891—1969)



Nirad Ranjan Mutsuddi
(1893—1975)